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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1896.

ITE AD JOSEPH.

The 19th March is the feast of St. Joseph, the Foster Father of our Lord and the Universal Patron of the Church, as well as the special Patron of Canada. All the month of March is dedicated to the honor of St. Joseph, and from Saturday evening next until the close of the month, each of the churches and chapels will hold special services in honor of that powerful intercessor. All the virtues that can adorn a domestic life are to be found in that of St. Joseph. He was humble, poor, patient, hard-working and faithful to all the duties that his exceptional position placed upon him. Whenever the feast and month of St. Joseph come around we are reminded of a peculiarly striking illustration.

Take a ray of light and decompose it in a prism; you have as a result the seven hues of the rainbow. Unite these seven colors and again you have a ray of light. Take the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost and combining them you have a beam of light—St. Joseph—which comes forth from the Sun of Eternal Justice and reascends to its source. In his life you discover every hue and variety of perfection or virtue. Consequently the close imitation of his example is sure to result in a peaceful, prosperous, holy and Christian career, and just assure to meet with a glorious reward in the unending life beyond the barriers of time.

Experience and history both teach that no person was ever known to have sincerely appealed to St. Joseph without having had the appeal granted. It stands to reason that he must be most powerful in heaven, and it behooves all sincere Catholics to make use of the coming month in order to reap the benefits that ever flow from a true devotion to St. Joseph.

GODLESS SCHOOLS.

It is now the turn of the Protestant element to find fault with the proposals of the Greenway Government in regard to the School difficulty. In order to escape all responsibility, it appears that the Greenway Government would be willing to secularize the schools and to eliminate all religious exercises. The Protestant as well as the Catholic clergy would most naturally oppose such a compromise. As far as the Catholic Church is concerned she would prefer, by a long way, to submit to the present system rather than to allow an era of blank infidelity and godless education to be inaugurated. And we are confident that the Protestant clergy would prefer that the Roman Catholics should have their own schools, to do with them as they saw fit, rather than to allow the very spirit of Christianity to be driven from the institutions in which the members of the coming generation are to be formed.

While anti-remedial meetings are being held in Toronto, Ottawa and elsewhere; while countless accusations are being launched against the hierarchy and clergy of our church; while political oratures are seeking to make capital for party purposes, or personal benefit, out of the present difficulty; while men, otherwise apparently rational, are running mad over the danger of the situation, it is generally forgotten that the result of all this opposition to a measure of justice may be the ruin of Christian education in an important section of this Dominion. Instead of the Catholics receiving fair play and the Protestants receiving a guarantee of their own rights and privileges, wherever and whenever they may be in a minority, the both may find that the spirit of Ingersollism may prevail and both cross and bible be swept out of the schools.

We were pleased to notice that a great number of wise Protestants have per-

ceived the possibility of such a danger and have expressed themselves as desirous of seeing justice done to the Catholic minority—if not altogether for the sake of Catholicity, at least for the sake of our general Christianity. The second reading of the Remedial Bill is fixed for next Tuesday. It will be most interesting to watch the course of the debate that will follow. All impartial men will have a grand opportunity of discovering whether our foremost public men are actuated by party or by principle. There are some who would gladly sacrifice all party exigencies for the sake of one solid principle; there are others who have no care for principle beyond the use that can be made of it either to reach or to retain political power. Which category is in the majority? We will soon learn. A few men of the former are sufficient to guide the mass of the latter—if they are so divided. If, on the other hand, the men of "principle" first and party or self second are in the majority, all this great noise and trouble will not be without a most beneficial result—the country will learn that its legislators are not mere voting machines. In any case, God protect us from "Godless Schools."

THE "CANADA-REVUE."

A committee has been formed to receive subscriptions for the prosecution of the Canada-Review against Archbishop Fabre. According to the Witness of Saturday and to the utterances and professions of the Canada-Review, itself, in the days of its mortality, the condemnation issued against it by the Archbishop was for having sought to purify the Church by exposing what, in its judgment, were crying abuses. The defunct organ professed such an unbounded love for the Catholic Church that it felt it a sacred duty to undertake the reforming of the clergy and the improving of the discipline in the old institution. Its professed object may have been very good—as far as its short-sighted promoters could judge—but its methods brought upon it a condemnation. It sought to repair its losses by securing a judgment for \$50,000 against the Archbishop; of course this was only done in the interest of Catholicity. Unfortunately for the Review, the Courts, both Superior and Appeal, declined to accept its views and did not deem it well or just to condemn the Archbishop to pay over the sum—not even in the interests of the Church that the Review was so anxious to protect and champion. Now the defeated Review—through the executors to its last will and testament—wishes to raise funds to carry the case to the Privy Council in England, and thereby secure the amount necessary to enable it to continue its good work of reforming Catholicity and strengthening the Church.

The members of the committee appointed to receive subscriptions for the prosecution of the case are Messrs. A. A. Thibault, F. E. Gratton, Alfred Brunet, S. J. Carter, Joseph Fortier, J. Emile Vanier, A. Filiatrault, W. T. Costigan and Horace St. Louis. Mr. C. S. J. Phillips is the chosen trustee; the Daily Witness is the organ that seems to have been selected to do the journalistic part of the work.

Leaving aside the gentlemen whose names indicate Catholicity, and about whose desire to help and serve the Church we can raise no doubt, we are a little surprised, but very glad, to find that such worthy citizens as Messrs. F. E. Gratton, S. J. Carter, W. T. Costigan and C. S. J. Phillips, assisted by the Witness, have taken upon themselves to help the cause of Catholicity and to aid the heirs of the departed defender of Catholic morals and unselfish lover of Catholic principles to secure the reversal of the judgments and thereby enable them to take a few thousand dollars from the Archdiocese for the purpose of strengthening the bulwarks of the Church in Canada. It is exceedingly generous on the part of these gentlemen. Meanwhile we only can hope and pray that the Catholic Church may succeed in hanging together until such time as its disinterested friends may be able to come to its relief, patch up its shattered parts, and put it upon a solid basis.

THE CONFESSIONAL.

We are not given to criticising the judgments of our tribunals, much less do we desire to find fault with the legal opinions of the sworn and responsible administrators of justice; however, without wishing that our remarks should be taken as any reflection upon a recent decision in the case of Rev. Abbe Gill, we feel it our duty to express our opinion concerning the secret of the confessional. It has been claimed that if what the priest said to his penitent in no way necessitates a divulging of the penitent's confession, there exists no exemption in law, and the priest, if so required, in the interest of justice, is obliged to make known what advice he had given. This may seem very well reasoned at first sight, but it is both wrong as regards the law and as regards theology.

We do not purpose citing examples nor going into any lengthy and confusing arguments; let us take the question of the exemption of confessional secrets

from the two-fold point of theology and of civil law. A very few phrases will suffice to settle the matter, and no amount of dogmatic argument or of legal quibbling can change the position: Firstly, from the standpoint of theology, the confessional secret is absolutely inviolable. Neither may the priest—nor can he—divulge what has been told to him in the confessional: nor may he—nor can he—make known to others the penances imposed or the advice given his penitent. By the penance third parties might be able to conjecture the nature of the sins confessed: equally so might they, by knowing the advice, the warning, or the reprimand, succeed in learning the secret confided to the confessor. Therefore the priest is theologically forbidden to make known any part of what passed between him and his penitent. We used the word "can" as well as "may," because we doubt whether a priest, were he ever so willing, could possibly reveal a confession secret. We have evidence of this in the so-called ex-priests, the perverts who have many times attempted to tell what they had heard in the confessional but who never yet succeeded in so doing.

Secondly, from the standpoint of civil law, either there is or there is not an exemption in the case of confessional secrets. All authorities agree that such an exemption exists. Since it exists in the law, there arises the question of distinction. Are there any distinctions indicated by the law? None whatever. The law does not speak of part of the confession, or any special portion thereof; it merely touches the secrets of the confessional, which includes all confession, both what the penitent confided to the confessor and what the confessor felt directed by his theological instructions to state to the penitent. The word "confession" is misleading; it is the "Sacrament of Penance" that should be stated. The Sacrament of Penance consists of several parts; the confession, contrition, and reparation, on the part of the penitent; the judgment, granting or retaining of absolution, the imposing of penance and the admonitions, on the part of the confessor. Each and all of these parts go to make up the Sacrament of Penance, or the Confession, which the spirit and letter of the law both exempt from the obligation of revelation in the case of legal evidence. Therefore the Abbe Gill could not, in virtue of theology, divulge any part of the confession, and the law cannot oblige him to do so.

IMMIGRANT TESTS.

The United States is the "Land of Liberty," the asylum to which the persecuted of all lands may come, the refuge of the down-trodden and the unfortunate, the home of equality and of future emancipation. We do not wish to dispute these statements, although we must admit that, by constant repetition in every imaginable key, they do become somewhat monotonous. In theory they are very grand and we admire the patriotism that heralds such sublime theories to all quarters of the globe. However, when we come down to practice we often find it very difficult to reconcile the actual events before our eyes with the broad spirit of universal liberty that the theorists announce.

The United States will not allow paupers to come into the country. For this we cannot blame the Republic—although the poor of Europe may be only seeking safety from a tyranny that has rendered them paupers, and merely coming out to enjoy a slice of that wonderful freedom so loudly promised to all. The Government of the United States raises barriers against the Chinese. Again we have no fault to find—but there is no exception made, for Chinese or others, in the great code of humanity-embracing liberty that has won for the country the title of "the Land of the Free." The other day the Senate Immigration Committee reported a bill adding to the classes of aliens excluded from admission to the United States "all persons over fourteen years of age, who cannot read and write the language of their native country." If the Republic were to put its theories into fair practice it seems to us that its arms should be open to receive even the illiterate, and its magnificent freedom should bend down to procure instruction for the unfortunate whose position in the old world served to keep them in ignorance.

But what is most amusing, although very serious, is the fact that any steamship company that has the misfortune to bring out a boy or girl, over fourteen years, and unable to read and write in some language, must carry the young immigrant back at its own expense. Such a regulation would necessitate no end of annoyance and cost. The steamship company would require to have a regular bureau of examination and a staff of officials at every European port from which its vessels sailed. Such officials would require to be able to read and write at least a dozen different languages in order to detect the illiteracy of the young immigrants coming on board the ships. The bill is evidently a blow at the companies rather than at the immigrants to the United States. So very great is the Liberty that falls upon the foreigner, the moment he

comes within sight of Bartholdi's statue, that he feels inclined to put out to sea as rapidly as possible. Would it not be more in accord with the original spirit of American independence to establish means whereby the illiterate could secure the instruction on this side of the ocean which adverse circumstances robbed them of in the old world? There is no doubt of it; the laws and their various amendments in the United States are exceedingly fair as far as Americans are concerned, but heaven help the outsider that comes under their influence.

THE IRISH LEADER.

Justin McCarthy resigned the leadership of the Irish Parliamentary party. Ireland owes a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. McCarthy for all the sacrifices he has made and all the services he has rendered in the cause of Home Rule. When it was learned that on account of advancing years and the exigencies of his profession, the leader felt it his duty to relinquish the helm, there was a very widespread opinion that Hon. Mr. Blake might succeed him. However, the high post of trust was offered to Mr. Thomas Sexton, one of the most able men of the day, and certainly the leading Irish orator in the House. Mr. Sexton declined and was firm in his determination not to accept. Some of his reasons have been made public, but we are confident that he has others of a private nature that will never be known. At last the choice fell upon Mr. John Dillon, and he is now the leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party.

Mr. Dillon is only forty-five years of age and is an active and able man. His father, the late John Blake Dillon, who represented Tipperary in 1848, was one of the founders of the Nation, and a patriot who rendered incalculable services to Ireland. The present leader was educated at the Catholic University of Dublin, and is a licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland. In 1880 he was returned as member for Tipperary. Ill health obliged him to retire for awhile. He was last elected for East Mayo in 1885, and re-elected by acclamation at the subsequent election. His health is now fairly good, but no thanks to his two terms of imprisonment, to both of which he was subjected, as a suspect, by Mr. Foster.

Now that the party has again a leader it is to be hoped that some effort will be made to unite the various elements. Although Mr. Healy is far from being in accord with Mr. Dillon's views, yet he has displayed of late a desire to support the latter or Mr. Sexton in bringing about a spirit of harmony. This eternal division is the only real obstacle in the path of Home Rule. Well did Denis Florence McCarthy express the situation when, in 1843, he wrote:—

"O! Erin thou desolate mother,
The heart in thy bosom is sore;
And wringing thy hands in despair,
Thou dost round thy plague-stricken shore,
The children are dying or flying,
The great ones are laid in the dust—
And those who survive are divided,
While those who control are unjust."

And as long as the divisions exist between the survivors so long must we expect injustice from the powers to control. It is very, very strange, that so few of Ireland's leading men will act in accord with what they see and know. Each one seems to think that his own personal ideas must, by hook or by crook, be made to prevail; none appear to realize the fact that they are, themselves, the causes of division. It would be a grand thing if, at the close of this century, a spirit of self-sacrifice and consequent union should enter into the councils of the party. We trust that the patriotic souls will see the necessity of smoothing Mr. Dillon's path, if not for the leader's sake, at least for the sake of the cause they claim to have at heart.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

ON TUESDAY, March 3, the Remedial Bill will be taken into consideration and the discussion proceed from day to day.

ABOUT Christmas time a great many people imagined that we were to have no winter this year. They were somewhat mistaken. We certainly are having a real Canadian February; and so much the better for the country.

It is to be hoped that a reaction will soon set in with the Paris Municipal Council. That body has expelled all the Sisters of Charity from the city infirmaries; it is learned that the lay nurses give very poor satisfaction compared with the nuns.

THE APAISTS in Cincinnati are trying to have Church property taxed. They imagine thus to injure the Catholic Church. Poor fools! All the taxes in this world, the Apaists and the "Gates of Hell" combined, could not "prevail against her."

THE New York Sun says that should Cardinal Sottili ever sit in the chair of St. Peter he will have a great advantage over his predecessors in his knowledge of English. He has learned to speak the language very fluently and he imparts to it the softness of an Italian accent

which renders his pronunciation very agreeable. Of course the English Pope, Adrian IV., (1154-1159) spoke his mother tongue; but the English of that day would be "Greek" to the English-speaking world of the present.

THE Fathers of the Holy Ghost have been authorized to return to Alcaze, and to take possession of the Trois Epis, a celebrated Alsatian pilgrimage, situated at the entrance of the Val de St. Gregoire. The Fathers of the Precious Blood once had this convent.

FATHER WEHINGER, inspired by the example of Father Damien, has opened an asylum for lepers at Mandalay, Upper Burma. Already the institution has one hundred and fifty inmates. It is wonderful to contemplate the courage and devotedness of the Catholic missionaries.

HER EXCELLENCY, LADY ABERDEEN, has kindly consented to become patroness of the Shamrock's Fancy Fair which will be held in the Windsor Hall on April 18. Elsewhere we give the full list of officers elected, and we are pleased to learn that great success has so far attended their efforts.

THE editor of La Croix proposes that all the priests of Paris shall unite in offering a garland, not of perishable flowers, but of Masses for the repose of the soul of Pasteur. Such would be the grandest and most beneficial tribute that could be paid to the memory of the great man of science.

THIRTY-SIX verdicts of death by starvation were brought in by London Coroners' juries last year. This seems very surprising at first; but when we consider the population of London and the million or more of people who have no visible means of livelihood, we wonder that the number is not greater.

ENGLAND and the United States are the only nations that have no diplomatic representatives at the Vatican. The Pope, however, makes up for this lack on the part of these two countries by paying special attention to them and "heaping coals" upon their heads by acts of generosity and kindness.

We invite special attention to Sir Wm. Dawson's letter published in this issue, and particularly do we ask our readers to note the portion thereof in which he refers to the certain and prompt action that Protestants would take were they ever treated in Quebec as the Catholic minority is treated in Manitoba.

MISS M. STOKES, of the Royal Irish Academy, has issued a book of great interest to Catholics. It treats of the intercourse which existed between Ireland and France in the early days of Christianity. The work will be read very widely, and will furnish subject matter for many an essay and speech.

ARCHBISHOP IRELAND'S address at the World's Purity Congress, in Chicago, has been translated into French by Mr. Minot, of Geneva, Switzerland, Secretary of the International Federation for the Abolition of State Regulation of Vice. The Pope read the address and was deeply impressed by its contents.

REV. D. S. HOISON, a preacher of Raleigh, South Carolina, has been sent to jail for stealing a cow and a mule. He sold the cow and bought a frock-coat and Bible, and then went out on his mission with the mule. Probably the zealous missionary believes in the principle that "the end justifies the means."

ATTORNEY-GENERAL SIFTON is evidently determined to have his fling, judging by the despatches which have reached us just as we are going to press. Greater men than Sifton failed in similar attempts to coerce the Catholics of this country, and he will prove no exception to the general rule as laid down in history.

A CORRESPONDENT wants to know whether a certain new and very high railway official is a Catholic or Protestant. We cannot say. His name might indicate either one or the other, and the impartiality—as far as religion goes—in the changes he seems to be making would serve as a very poor index to his religious convictions.

THE anti-Catholic education clique in Manitoba have seemingly been pouring over the pages of the history of Ireland, as their present campaign to persist in refusing a system of separate schools looks as though we might expect anything from them in their endeavor to carry out their bigoted designs, as for instance \$5 reward for the head of a Catholic schoolmaster.

CARDINAL GOTTI, the recent inter-nuncio at Rio de Janeiro and now a member of the Sacred College in Rome, is the son of a Genoese longshoreman. He was brought up in great poverty and amidst sufferings and sacrifices. He re-

ceived his education at the Jesuit college in Genoa, became a member of the Carmelite Order, and eventually the General of the Order. A man of most remarkable ability, he is another evidence of the democracy of the Church.

AN Encyclical Letter will be addressed to the Hungarians by the Holy Father on the celebration of the millenium of their independence. Here again do we see the evidence of the Holy Father's watchfulness over the entire Church, Kingdoms, Empires, Republics, are all one to him; he recognizes legitimate authority in every form.

AS NUMBERS are asking us about the date of issue of our Souvenir for 1896, we desire to inform all our readers and friends that the paper in question will be ready for mailing on the 18th March. As before stated, we keep it back purposely in order to have all the reports of the day's celebration, a feature that we could not have last year on account of the early date of issue.

THE following story will illustrate the attitude of the Church regarding marriage and divorce:—

"A priest in the wilds of Oregon was called to a distance of forty miles to marry a couple. His means of conveyance to the place was a road wagon. On his arrival at his destination he found that the man had a divorced wife living. He refused to marry the couple, and had to walk through the snow forty miles back because of his refusal."

CARDINAL VAZARY, Prince Primate of Hungary, has given a very fine illustration of how to use wealth in a Christian manner. He has donated one hundred thousand crowns for the foundation of a refuge for the poor at Keskely. The poor of that place will bless his name and he may reasonably expect a bountiful return for his generosity in the world to come.

A DANTZIG upholsterer was recently asked to appraise a plaster bust of the Empress of Germany; he valued it at twenty-five cents. He was arrested in consequence for *lese majeste*. Having proved that the bust had no artistic merit he was released. But he does not in future desire to be called in to give an opinion concerning German royalty—not even in plaster.

ALTHOUGH the Transvaal Catholics are not permitted by the law of that land to hold office, they number over four thousand, have a Prefect Apostolic, ten priests, a college, seven schools and orphanages and asylums of their own. Some of our American Catholic contemporaries are so bitter against Great Britain that they applaud the tyrant Kruger and his so-called "Free Republic."

SOME person corresponding from Canada to an American contemporary gives the following figures regarding the Canadian hierarchy and clergy:—

"In all Canada we have 1 Cardinal, 7 archbishops, 23 bishops, nearly 2,000 priests and about one-third of the population Catholic. In 1783 the Catholic population was 113,000, priests, 135, and nuns, 234. Only 4 priests were stationed in Western Canada (Ontario) to administer to the wants of 4,000 Catholics."

THE London Daily Graphic has published a series of very interesting letters entitled "One Queen, one Flag, one Fleet," treating of the relations between Great Britain and the Colonies. The letters have attracted much attention in England, and certainly, from what we have read of them, not undeservedly. However, not having yet perused them sufficiently we must reserve any comment for the present.

DO NOT FORGET that the St. Patrick's Day Souvenir Number of THE TRUE WITNESS will be ready for mailing on the 18th of March. We would respectfully remind the prelates, statesmen, judges, and litterateurs who promised us contributions, that we are anxious to have their copy at as early a date as possible in order to complete all arrangement for illustrations and space.

ANOTHER bright addition to contemporary Catholic journalism is the 'Catholic Witness' of Detroit. This is its third week of existence. As to form, type, paper and general appearance, it is all that could be desired. But the principal attraction it has for us is its contents; bright, selections, suitable departments, original editorials, and an abundance of boiler-plate. We wish the new 'Witness' a successful career.

LAST WEEK a stranger to Montreal asked us which of the churches here had the most attractive preacher. We replied that, for the present, we would say Notre Dame. He answered that he meant the Protestant churches. He then added that there was too much of a sectarian spirit amongst Protestants, for he considered one Church as good as another. "Provided it is not a Catholic," he remarked. "Yes," he said, and I find the strength of the Catholic Church in its unity. It has as many sects as Protestantism, but