



EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE CALL special attention to our issue of next week which will be a special St. Patrick's Day Souvenir number. As the edition will be limited we would recommend all anxious to secure copies to send in orders between this and next Wednesday. Besides the usual weekly we will present a supplement of Irish literary selections in prose and verse. Full reports of the day's celebration will be given, consisting of the services, sermon, procession, different concerts, speeches and all the attractive features of the great national celebration. The illustrated cover of this year's St. Patrick's Day Souvenir number is our own original conception. It presents, at one glance, the whole story of the Irish cause from the days of Grattan to the days of Gladstone. We will not give any further details of the contents of the next issue of THE TRUE WITNESS; we can only express the hope that our greatly increased number of readers will be pleased with this year's Souvenir of St. Patrick's Day.

LAST WEEK we made mention of a fact that we desire to again refer to in this issue. At a meeting of the St. Patrick's Society it was decided to invite, through the press, the Irish members of the different Courts of the Catholic Order of Foresters and Branches of the C. M. B. A., to walk with the St. Patrick Society on the seventeenth. The intention is to swell the proportions of the procession and to let the world see that, when occasion presents itself, the Irishmen of Montreal can turn out in goodly numbers. By St. Patrick's Day the second reading of the Home Rule Bill will be either passed or rejected. It is almost certain that the step in the parliamentary procedure will be a success. In anticipation of the happy outcome of Gladstone's efforts it seems to us that our people, in this great city, should give expression to their feelings and we trust the happy suggestion, made by St. Patrick's Society, will be acted upon.

NOW AND AGAIN we meet with a piece of art that does credit to the country and to our city in particular; when such productions attract our attention we like to give our readers an idea of their existence. In Messrs. Sadliers' window, on Notre Dame street, there is a magnificent crayon picture of the Crucifixion; it is as original in design as it is beautiful in execution. The group that it represents is upon the back of the high altar in the convent of the Precious Blood in St. Hyacinthe. After a photograph of that conception Mrs. Ternan, of this city, a lady whose artistic talents we have already spoken of, reproduced it in crayon. Mrs. Ternan is a sister of Miss Cronin, the able and popular directress of the St. Anthony's School. We will not comment upon the workmanship of this piece of art; we prefer to invite our readers to go that way and see it for themselves. The group represents Christ dying upon the cross; an

angel holding the cup of sorrow, another cheering the sinking spirit: above is the Father, looking down from His cloud of glory, rendered still brighter by the beams from the Holy Ghost, and glancing into the agonizing face of the Saviour, who looks up to the Father. The Blessed Virgin, Mary Magdalene, and the Beloved St. John, each with a whole history of particular grief speaking in every expression of the features, stand or kneel at the foot of the cross. The more one examines the details of form, attitude, expression and surroundings, the more beautiful the whole picture becomes. It is no exaggeration to say that this piece of art is deserving of the most careful study, and the artist merits the highest praise. Such subjects are difficult in the fact that little room exists for originality, but in this case not only is the altar piece, from which the picture is taken, most original in design, but Mrs. Ternan has succeeded in making some of the expressions even more striking.

We clip the following from the Ottawa Daily Citizen of the tenth instant:

"The royal mail steamship Sardinian will leave Liverpool on April 20 for Quebec and Montreal, and will be followed by the Laurentian April 27. Persons wishing to bring out their friends can purchase passage certificates from the Allan Line agents at lowest current rates. The steamships come direct to the railway wharves, same as last year.

The first departure from this side will be the royal mail steamship Sardinian, which will leave Montreal on Saturday, May 6 and after this a steamer will leave Montreal every Saturday at daylight. Passengers will embark the evening before. The Parisian, Sardinian, Mongolian, Numidian and Circassian will be on the Liverpool service."

We trust that the information contained in this paragraph is well founded as it will be a good thing, and a fair thing, for the future immigrants landing in this country. We trust that the Government has seen the absurdity of forcing these strangers to land one hundred and eighty miles below the point to which they are coming. We strove in a recent issue to prove that it would be a cruel injustice to the immigrants as well as a wanton injury to Montreal; we hope our effort has not been vain.

THE POPE has announced, (so says a despatch) that just before the French Parliamentary elections, he will address a letter to the French Episcopacy urging the necessity of forming, in the chambers, a party of Republican Catholics. As far as the foregoing piece of information is concerned we are not able to vouch for its accuracy; but we do know that the best friend France ever had, either past or present, is Leo XIII: and on the other hand, the worst enemy that bright nation has ever had to contend with is the spirit of anti-clericalism—an off-spring of the masonic and socialistic societies. The spirits of good and evil have contended for supremacy on the field of French governmental affairs and perhaps the struggle in that land has been greater and fiercer than in any other country on earth. Apparently the genius of evil, with its chaotic surroundings, has carried many victories; but the general result has been ever in favor of the Church. And it could not

be otherwise, since she is under the Eternal's eye and lives upon the promise of the Son of God. Look at the Pope from any standpoint; consider him as a poet, a philosopher, a statesman or a saintly Vicar of the Founder of Christianity, and the more you contemplate him the more you are challenged to admire, to reverence, and to obey. And no nation on earth is more indebted to Leo XIII, than France, the first daughter of the Church.

THE London Universe says:

"The announcement of the death of General Beauregard comes upon us with surprise. We fancied he was amongst the majority long ago. It is like dipping into the pages of an old book to read of the man who fired on Sumpter and precipitated the war of secession, breathing his last, Beauregard was a Catholic and a most accomplished soldier. R. I. P.

It is wonderful how rapidly men, who have played most prominent parts in the affairs of the world, drop into a quasi-oblivion, even while yet walking the ways of men. If such is the case—and history proves that it very often is so—how much more ephemeral are all the glorious of life when the tomb closes over the mortal remains of the one whose life was full of the bustle and noise of existence. When we contemplate calmly the disappearance of prominent characters from the field of earthly strife and when we consider how very short-lived is the fame or the emoluments for which they have struggled, we cannot but admire, more and more, the exactness of that beautiful expression of St. Thomas a Kempis: *Vanitas vanitatum, omnia est vanitas, propter amare Deum et illi soli servire.*

We clip the following from an exchange and find it very timely:

There are still some subscribers who have not taken advantage of our invitation to liquidate their indebtedness. This is a good time of year to settle up accounts, temporal as well as spiritual. As we remarked before, the amount due by any individual is small, but if all were to pay, the aggregate would make a quite respectable sum, which we could use to excellent advantage in our business. We are sure no subscriber is neglecting his or her account intentionally; it is purely a want of thought—which, of course, is expensive for the publisher. Look at date on label, and if it shows that you are in arrears get our signature to a nicely-printed statement. It is a simple transaction that will ease your mind—and ours.

THE London Daily News is very considerate, and has suddenly developed a great interest in His Holiness the Pope. It expresses a fear that the festivities at Rome may lead to disturbances; that the pilgrims to the Vatican may cause annoyance to the Italian anti-clericals and thereby bring about a state of confusion very dangerous to the peace and tranquility of the Holy Father. The Bouverie Street organ, the venerator of non-conformity, tells us that the present Pope is a very good and exemplary priest, and it would be too bad if his friends and admirers were to so intrude upon him as to make his position more difficult than it actually is. It is exceedingly kind of the Daily News to pay such a compliment to the Vicar of Christ. However, we imagine that the old organ of bigotry would please the "good and exemplary Priest of Rome" far more, were it to cease misrepresenting the Catholics of

England and Ireland and to let the tenets of our creed alone. In fact it would be doing itself very much more credit if it would be kind enough to mind its own business and to let Catholics mind theirs. Leo XIII. does not require any certificate from the London Daily News to let the world know that he is an "exemplary priest." Were he otherwise no journal existing would be more ready to hold up his short-comings to the public gaze.

MANY of our readers have been anxious to get some particulars about the Pope's life. In a short space it would be difficult to run over the principal events of such a lengthy, prominent and varied career. But in order to satisfy, as well as we can, the praiseworthy desire for information on a such a very important subject, we give the following:—The present Pope was born at Carpineto on March 2, 1810; he studied at Viterbo and the Roman College; he was consecrated priest by Cardinal Odescalchi, Vicar-General to Pope Gregory XVI. on December 23, 1837; he was named Catholic Delegate to Benevento and afterwards to Perugia in 1838. Five years in these functions brought him to the nunciature of Belgium. He was named to the titular archbishopric of Damietta in 1843, and consecrated in the Church of San San Lorenzo in Panisperna by Cardinal Luigi Lambruschini, Secretary of State to Gregory XVI., and left for Namur, where he stopped with Mgr. Montpellier, Canon of the Cathedral and afterwards Bishop of Liege. He succeeded at Brussels Mgr. Formari, who went to Paris, and three years subsequently he was called to the bishopric of Perugia. These are the principal events in the early life of the Pope. His career from the date of his consecration in 1843 and down to the present has been in our number of three weeks ago.

Statistics are the best proofs of the effects of alcohol upon the social order of the world. Figures are cold and immutable things, and when they are correct they tell most eloquent stories. On our lecture platforms and in the pulpits, when the subject of intemperance is touched upon, generally the most effective results are produced by the clear statement of facts supported by official statistics. Here are four or five items that speak volumes.

The Thirty-fifth Report of the Reformatory and Refuge Union states that in Great Britain and Ireland 145,000 persons are every year committed to prison as drunkards, of whom 112,000 are men and the rest women.

An English paper, from statistics taken from the press of the United Kingdom, reports the records of murders of women by inebriated husbands, since January 1, 1889, to January 1, 1891, to be 3,004.

In a late debate in the German Reichstag it was stated that there are at present 11,000 persons in hospitals and insane-asylums who are suffering from delirium tremens.

The police record states the licensed houses in London, England, number 14,085, giving one to every 113 of the population.

Of the 30,000 criminals in German prisons, 14,000 were arrested for crimes committed under the influence of intoxicating drinks.

There has been an assembly of the Sacred Congregation of Rites for the discussion of the miracles of the Venerable Sister Martinengo, a Brescian Capuchin proposed for beatification.