

The True Witness and Catholic Chronicle.

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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

If the English Speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they would soon make of the TRUE WITNESS one of the most prosperous and powerful Catholic papers in this country. I heartily bless those who encourage this excellent work.

PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

SATURDAY APRIL 28, 1900.

News of the Week.

The "True Witness" extends its sincere congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. H. J. Harrison, on the occasion of their marriage, which took place on Wednesday morning last in St. James Cathedral. The bride, who appeared more charming—if it were possible—than ever before, was Miss Amy Murphy, daughter of the late Hon. Senator Murphy. The practical friendship of the good Senator for the Irish Catholic organ of this province can never be effaced from our recollection, and the memory of it casts a deep and abiding interest for us in every event that affects his splendid family. May the honeymoon, which is being spent in New York, prove the dawning of a new existence, the sky of which we pray may remain cloudless and glorious, until the sunset of their united career.

The Duke of Argyll is dead. He was one of the most active and determined members of the Lords; a man of exceptional educational advantages, all of which, by means of sobriety and perseverance he enhanced. The Marquis of Lorne—our former popular and talented Governor-General, succeeds his father, and is now the Duke of Argyll.

Elsewhere in this issue, we publish the constitution of the Gaelic League of America, which was established Nov. 2nd, 1898. The object of the League is to advance the interests and study of the Irish language, music, literature, art and history. Annual conventions will be held, and, according to the rules, which the reader will find in another column, this is one of the most important Irish organizations of late years.

The members of the new City Council seem to have gone in with vigor and determination. One characteristic, at least, they have exhibited: it is that of wielders of the civic axe.

We have given expression, not less than fifty times, to our views concerning the periodical prophetic efforts in regard to the personality of the next Pope. We are pleased to find the "Catholic Times" of Liverpool, dealing with the subject from our own standpoint. Its article says:—

"Magazines and journals cannot live without readers, and readers love to be told of what is going to happen at some future time. Thus it is that in the current 'Contemporary' Dr. Sigmund Muzz discusses the merits of the probable candidates for the Papacy at the next Conclave. He takes it for granted that the next Pope will be an Italian, as the proportion of Italians to foreigners among the Cardinals since the last June Consistory is thirty-eight to thirty, and among the eight 'Papabili' whose claims are here reviewed, only one non-Italian is mentioned, Cardinal Ledochowski, a Pole. The most probable successor to Leo XIII, in the opinion of Dr. Muzz is Cardinal Gotti, a Carmelite Friar and a son of the people, very learned and pious. Cardinal Rampolla's chances he considers good in many respects. He regards as the ideal

candidate Cardinal Capelatro, Archbishop of Capua, who is described as a model of Christian humility and universal charity. The Cardinal is, however, in his seventy-seventh year. If Cardinal Svahupa, who is only forty-nine, were chosen, a certain prophecy could be considered fulfilled. The other three 'Papabili' mentioned are Cardinals Parocchi, Vanuttelli, and Oraglia di Santo Stefano. Of course, these conjectures are all made from a worldly standpoint. Candidature for the Papacy or for the office of any Bishop is not recognized by the Church.

Another Canadian priest has just been appointed to an important charge—that of pastor of St. Michael's Church in East Longmeadow, and of the parish in Longmeadow, Rev. Mr. J. P. Hackett was assistant pastor over the East Longmeadow Church in connection with those in Longmeadow, West Springfield and Mittineague when St. Michael's was a mission; so he comes not as an entire stranger. Father Hackett was educated at St. Hyacinthe College, Canada, and taught in that college three years after graduating. He was ordained nine years ago. His early home was at Milton East, P. Q. Mr. Hackett's brother, M. W. Hackett, a commercial traveller, and who recently was travelling in Johannesburg, South Africa, quite unexpectedly came to spend last Sunday at the Rectory.

A contemporary wisely says:—"The successful efforts which are being made for the revival of the Irish language will, it is to be hoped, be encouraged by compliance of the Government and the Irish Commissioners with the request for bilingual education put forward by the supporters of the movement. That there are sound reasons for meeting the wishes of the petitioners no one will deny who reads a memorandum on the subject which has been issued on behalf of the Gaelic League of London by its president, Mr. F. A. Fahy. The fact is that for the large number of Irish-speaking children the English instruction which they now receive is practically an entire failure. The child loses Irish to a large extent, but does not acquire English. Any English learnt is soon lost 'in home surroundings.' This explains most of the Irish illiteracy after seventy years of 'National' education. The majority of Ireland's illiterates have actually passed in this way through primary schools. The remedy is to give the children the opportunity of acquiring knowledge in the language with which they are familiar."

The "Manchester Guardian" gives a fearful picture of the famine now raging in India. Another wise and sympathetic organ says:—"Before the famine is over, or rather before the people begin to leave the works in June to prepare their sun-dried fields for the monsoon, it is not unlikely that the number on relief will have increased by another five millions. Accustomed as India is to seasons of scarcity, she has never had to face a crisis like the present one. More than a quarter of India is hit. From Hissar, in the Punjab, where 160,000 are on relief, down to the south of the Bombay Decan, the famine has the land

in its grip. The Government are taking very active measures to deal with the distress and to ensure relief, yet it continues to collect the revenue from the starving ryot who stays in the village to sink his well, while his wife and children have gone to the relief works. Why special efforts should not be made to free the perishing people from their burdens at a period like the present is a question which only officials can solve satisfactorily. But, however this be, a duty of charity towards the starving lies upon the inhabitants of these islands—a duty which they should not neglect, though the strain on finances caused by the war may have made trade more dull and their purses much lighter." This is an appeal that should not be neglected.

A bill which Sir Charles Dilke has succeeded in passing through the Commons will be a great blessing to children in the coal-mining districts. When it becomes law, as we expect it will in due time, no child under the age of thirteen may be employed underground in any capacity. It is sad to think that it is only now that such a measure of protection is about to be extended to the infants of the heartless parents.

Great men generally say good things; and the very fact of their greatness imparts an importance to what they advance. The Lord Chief Justice of England—Lord Russell—delivered an able and very original speech at the annual dinner of the United Law Society. We take the following extract, which deserves careful perusal:—

"He held views (he said) upon this question which he had more than once expressed, and which he thought were not those most generally held. He thought there was a great dread, if a very close watch was not kept, of facility of speech degenerating into glibness of speech, and, for his own part—he spoke of his own personal impression of those he heard speaking—the person who made the least impression upon him was the person who talked the most glibly. He infinitely preferred, so far as it had an effect upon his mind, to listen to a man who first stammered and hesitated for the choice of a particular word to express the particular shade of meaning which he desired to express, but who showed that thought was accompanying his attempted utterance. He would rather hear such a man than one who, never pausing for a word, gave the idea that he was washed away before the flood of his own eloquence (laughter). What was wanted was not words, words, words, but thoughts, thoughts, thoughts. A well-thought-out speech, packed with information and packed with thought well digested, was worth a dozen speeches in which there was a cloud of words, but in which thought bore about the same proportion to the volume of matter as, in the celebrated classic case, the bread bore to the quantity of sack. Thought was the first essential, and when they had achieved that position then he thought facility of speech was a matter of comparatively easy acquirement (cheers)."

There must be a boom expected in the lumber trade this season, at Ottawa, as the millmen at the Chaudiere and in Hull were notified before starting that those receiving \$1.25 last year would receive \$1.50 this summer, and that a proportionate increase would take place all round.

When political partyism gets so low that religious bigotry must be employed as a means against an opponent, the moral state of a country cannot be very sound. Writing about the actual president of the United States, and seeking to make political capital against him, the "Philadelphia City and State" says:—

"One man, who happens now to be William McKinley, and who incidentally is president of the United States, is for the present armed with dictatorial irresponsible powers over, more accurately, 8,000,000 people. He is waging war upon them with 70,000 United States troops, while American citizens, many of whom are utterly opposed to such action, pay the bill. He has been doing this for more than one year, during which time the most essential grievances complained of by the Filipinos under Spain's rule continued; Spanish laws, Spanish taxes and Spanish friars. The latter abuse is the greatest of all, for it binds upon the people a body of men who have become utterly obnoxious on account of their personal ill-repute, their rapacity and oppressions. Not only has nothing been done so far toward solving this difficulty, but the course of the administration has been such as to create the impression, through Archbishop Chapelle's action in Manila, that the authority of the religious orders will be established in the islands with 'greater prestige' than under Spanish rule. The effect of this understanding on the Filipinos is very serious. Since they fought Spain

to get rid of the rule of the friars, and endured tortures and executions without trial for so doing, why should they not fight us when we give them to understand—and it cannot be denied we have practically done so—that we will also bind the friars upon them?"

The usual imposing ceremonies in connection with the opening of the month of May will be held at the Bonsecours Church, on Monday evening. His Grace, Archbishop Bruchesi, will officiate on the occasion.

That is a grand, a magnificent project of Mayor Parent, of Quebec, to extend the city limits until the new or "Greater Quebec" embraces all the nine miles running to Cape Rouge. There is not a more beautiful, more historical, and more picturesque extent of ground in all Canada. Then what a city of magnificent prospects and of fresh material strength would not old Quebec become! It is to be hoped that Mayor Parent's project may be adopted, realized, and consummated.

Now that His Worship Mayor Prefontaine has accomplished his purpose of securing a second term, he has little regard for the claims of the Irish Catholic section, judging from reports of a recent sitting of the Catholic School Commissioners:

The principal business under discussion at the meeting, was the report of the committee on works. This committee recommended that the request of St. Ann's Parish be accepted, and that the School Board pay \$1,000 a year for eight years towards the repair of the school. Ald. Gallery supported this recommendation. Mayor Prefontaine objected to paying any amounts, unless the school belonged to the School Board. Mr. Demers and Ald. Martineau took the same view. Ald. Gallery contended that it was cheaper for the Board to pay half the cost of repair than to pay \$50,000 for the school. The Mayor thought a school could be built at a much lower figure than that mentioned. Finally, the question was referred back to the committee for further conference with the authorities of St. Ann's Parish.

The long promised Horse Show will open in this city on Thursday next. The entry list is expected to be a large one.

The London "Universe" says:—

Under the heading of "Ireland Revisited" there is a very interesting article in the current number of the "Saturday Review." The writer says that the reception accorded the Queen in Dublin far exceeded that extended to her in London at the time of her Diamond Jubilee. The Irish are frequently taunted with their inability to forget the past. But, as the "Saturday" puts it, in this respect the English themselves are no better than the Irish. If the Irish cannot forget "the appalling horrors of Drogheda," does England show her a good example by perpetuating her Guy Fawkes celebrations? The magnificent bravery of the Irish soldier is next commented on. "There are no regiments that can perform the feats which an Irish regiment finds easy. Our best generals are, and nearly always have been, Irishmen." The writer has evidently a clear perception as to the real condition of affairs in Ireland. No merely political arrangements will ever satisfy Irish aspirations. They will give to the head of the State, who is above and apart from politics, what they will never concede to the statesman. The honest policy therefore for England to adopt is to cultivate the friendship and the affection of Ireland, and, that once accomplished, the Irish question will be very, very easy of settlement.

Miss Rosa M. Barrett, in a letter to the "Pall Mall Gazette," points out that Ireland is remarkably free from serious crime. "Prisoners, as a whole, have decreased by more than one-fifth during the last twenty years, and serious offenders are only 16.3 per 10,000 of the population, as compared with 25.4 per 10,000 in England. There are far more prisoners in Scotland than in Ireland—24,000 more in '06, though the population is smaller. The convicted prisoners for all offenses were but 7.3 per 1,000 of the population in Ireland, as compared with 12.6 per 1,000 in Scotland."

According to recent published statistics, sixty-two new silk mills were started in the United States last year.

THE MONTH OF MAY.

"I am weary, weary waiting; Waiting for the May"— Sing an Irish poet, fifty years ago, and his song has awakened a responsive echo in the heart of every one who has since read it. Canada more than any other country in the world looks forward to the glorious seasons of general revival that comes with the advent of May. The

long months of winter, with their monotony of cold, of white snow, of ice-bound streams, of songless woods and leafless trees, while they may have their pleasant and attractive phases, are, nevertheless, too death-like for short-lived man to wish for their prolongation. May is the month of bright flowers, budding trees, blue skies, babbling streams, balmy breezes; and we love to contemplate its approach, just as we enjoy to our hearts' content, its presence. Nature having waved her magic wand over earth's face, gives back vitality to every dead object—except man. And yet May has its serious, its religious, its sublime characteristics. We recall some lines from Beattie's "Hermit," which our grandparents, when children, learned by heart, even as we now learn the lines of the most prominent writers of our days, and then we have the story:

"Nor yet for the ravage of winter I mourn;
Kind nature the embryo blossom will save,—
But when shall spring visit the mouldering urn?
Oh! when shall day dawn on the night of the grave?"

But, sad as may be the reflections to which each change of seasons gives rise, the world in general—animate and inanimate—is overcome with delight on the approach of May.

For the Catholic, however, there is something far more than a season of revival in the month; it is the one specially dedicated to the Holy Mother of God; it is the month of Mary. Flowers seem to spring into fresh and beautiful life for the purpose of supplying her altars with bouquets and her statues with garlands. The blue of the sky is the color peculiar to all devotions to the Blessed Virgin. The hymns of the birds in nature's vast shrine and the ripple of the streams coming down the hill-sides, are but the counterpart of the canticles of love and confidence chanted by the whole little world of children that pay pure and noble homage to the Immaculate Mother.

Never was it yet known that any one who sincerely had recourse to her, failed entirely. What wrongs might not each of us have performed in the march along life's crowded highway! What graces in abundance we all must necessarily require! She is the "Refuge of Sinners," "Comforter of the Afflicted," "Help of Christians." Her month is at hand, and it presents us with unnumbered opportunities of going to her shrine and placing ourselves under her protection. In each parish, throughout the month of May, the special devotions known as the "Month of Mary," are performed. As a rule, it is at seven, in the evening, after the day's work is done that before the repose of the night comes to us, that Mary awaits our visit, and that she holds the key of God's treasure-house of graces. It is a beautiful month, with a beautiful devotion, to the most beautiful of all God's creatures; and, if ever there were meaning in poor Keats' line—"a thing of beauty is a joy forever"—it surely must be one that is applicable to the Queen of Heaven.

We now close our brief reference to the month of May by sincerely wishing that no one Catholic, in all our vast number of subscribers, will fail with either word, or action, to pay due tribute to the one whom God has honored above all mankind, and whom the Divine Son has so loved that He can never forget, or neglect the supplications of the one who loves His Mother.

BOSSUET'S POWERS.

The Paris correspondent of the London "Catholic Times," in referring to M. Ferdinand Brunetiere and his conversion to Catholicity, says: "Bossuet, he who two hundred years ago changed the beautiful La Valliere into a penitent Magdalen, and brought the great Turenne into the fold of the Church, has just made another convert—in the person of Ferdinand Brunetiere. The eminent Academician and conferencier has just said in public that he is a Catholic, that his conversion has been going on for years, and that it is Bossuet who has converted him. This public confession of faith was made the other day at Besancon. The occasion of it was a festival, religious and literary, one of the attractions of which being a conference by M. Brunetiere. The Archbishop of Besancon, the Archbishop of Sens, and the Bishops of Monaco and Quimper were present.

The head of M. Brunetiere's discourse, delivered before the most intellectual element of Besancon society, was, "What Do We Learn at the School of Bossuet?" After telling his hearers what was to be learned at that school, he told them what he himself had learned at it, viz., to become a Catholic. Thus one of the leaders of the mind of his time stood forth not as an apologist of Bos-

suët's intellectual greatness, but as a proof that patient study of the "eagle of Meaux" leads to Rome. This avowal of his Catholicism came after his lecture. Before this he had brought into relief certain points in the ruined grandeur of Bossuet's genius. "Pascal and Bossuet," he said, "the two who had the most incomparable mastery over the French language. With this, Bossuet attached more importance to thinking justly than to writing elegantly. He had a horror of dilettantism that is of art for art. Thus we learn from him not to wrap up emptiness of thought in fine language. He proves to us, moreover, that the greatest orator is not necessarily the most correct, agreeable and accomplished, but rather he who best leads human action into the paths of truth and justice."

"M. Brunetiere had never been the object of such enthusiastic applause as the other day at Besancon. His conversion as that of a man representing the advanced intellect of the day is a host in itself."

What a magnificent example of the effects of men's works. Two hundred years after his death, in his books, Bossuet lives—and, not only lives, but acts. His master spirit sways minds as powerfully, more effectively in some cases, as when he was astounding the world with his funeral orations of Conde, Henriette d'Angletre, and other great personages. His "Variations" are working their miracles at this hour, even as they had done when he first launched them upon an astonished world. But the great lesson we have to draw from this "striking down" of a modern soul on his way to a terrible "damnation," is that we never know how far-reaching, even our most insignificant pieces of writing may not be. We write at this moment: in a couple of days a few thousand will be able to read what falls from our hurried pencil; in a few years hence, when we will be forgotten, our name not even a memory; our features, voice, manners and disposition, all in the ground, and all that once we cherished gone down to oblivion, then, perhaps, some accidental reader or student will come upon what we now pen, and will reap benefits incalculable from it. Thus it is that, for good or for evil, everything that is written and then read by the great public, must be carefully weighed, for its effects may penetrate several generations. Still more, the writer is responsible before God for the wrongs done by his works, no matter how remote the period of their effects. It is, therefore, a serious matter of no small magnitude to take up one's pen to address the world—and never should it be done unnecessarily, unreflectingly, or without a constant view to God's greater glory, and man's greater happiness.

THE NAZARETH INSTITUTE.

The "Daily Witness" in referring to the new hall of the Nazareth Institute for the Blind, recently erected on Mance street, says: "The seating capacity of the hall is 1,000, and it has been erected at a cost of \$25,000. The main building situated on St. Catherine street, has previously contained the hall, but when the place was inspected by the Lieutenant-Governor, some time ago, he found that it was too crowded, and recommended the Sisters in charge to turn the old hall into rooms for the use of the inmates, and to erect a new hall. The work was immediately proceeded with, and is now completed.

The blind pupils number 85 on an average, and the total cost of maintenance amounts to \$20,000 per annum, a large proportion of which is made up by the annual dinner and concert, and contributions from the public, the government grant amounting to only \$1,900. The total building expense of the past year including the hall, and improvements, to the main building amounted to \$18,000. All of the blind pupils, who have any ear for music, are trained to become piano tuners or performers, and the best teaching talent available is employed. As a proof that the work is successful it may be stated that one of the pupils recently secured a situation in Albany as a church singer, where she is paid \$2,000 a year.

But during the balance of the year the hall is not left idle. For some time the Sisters have carried on a kind of day nursery and kindergarten combined. Mothers who are forced to work all day bring their young children to the Sisters to care for and teach. For this purpose the new hall is used the year around, and the number of children cared for daily varies from two to three hundred. The annual concert of the Institute, held in the new hall, on Tuesday evening, was a great success. The work of the pupils was of no mean order. The selections for the most part were from the works of the masters. The greater part consisted of music, vocal, and instrumental, and it is in this that the pupils excel. They have also a small brass band, which rendered a couple of numbers in excellent style. The principal item on the programme was a sacred cantata entitled "At Jerusalem," founded on the trial of Christ. The cantata was very complex, and its production by the blind illustrated clearly the extent to which musical training can be carried with these unfortunates.