A Priest Marksman.

Rev. Peter Tarrillion, who was a guest at the Bishop's house last week, says the Southern Messenger, of San Antonio, Texas, is the oldest priest in the Diocese of San Antonio, being now 73 years of age. He is a native of Lorrame, now a part of Germany, and came to America early in the fifties. Father Tarrillion, after completing his studies in Missouri, was ordained at Gulveston on March 20, 1855, thirtynine years ago, and has been in Texas ever since. Together with the late Father Gury be attended in his younger days to an immense missionary district, extending from the Brazos on the east to the Guadalupe on the west, and from the city of Austin on the worth to Halletsville on the south.

Fathers Tarrillion and Gury visited Brenham, Cat Spring, Industry, La Grange, Bastrop, Austin, Seguin, High Hill, Wehnar, Columbus, Alleyton, East and West Bernard, Yellow-banks, Halletsville and the Navidad settlement, besides intervening points, and traversed a territory in which there are now at least twenty flourishing parishes, with substantial churches and well-frequented schools. At present over twenty priests are kept busy to attend to the spiritual wants of the Catholics in this district, and nearly every former stopping place of these two pioneer fathers has been transferred into a town or a village more or less pretentions with its own church and school.

The pioneers who, in those early days, laid the foundations for the Church's present prosperity, had no easy task to perform. There were no railroads in Texas at that time, at least not in that portion, so the trips of the missionaries had to be made principally on horseback and were attended with more or less danger, especially us the Know Nothing spirit was still rampant in some of the settlements.

It having come to Father Tarrillion's ears on one occasion that certain parties had threatened to tar and feather the first priest who would visit their neighborhood. Father Tarrillion rode boldly into the village, with his Winchester strapped to his saddle, and tied his horse in front of the principal store to make some purchases; but overawed by his fearless manner, no one dared to touch a hair on his head. On the contrary, when the father visited the place again soon after, the one who had been loudest in his threats before, entertained the good father in a hospitable manner.

On another occasion an anxious friend brought the news to Father Tarrilion that some one had loaded his shot gun to waylay and kill him at the first opportunity. Father Tarrillion coolly replied: "Tell my enemy to be sure to kill me at the first shot, for otherwise I will be compelled to return the fire and I will be be sure to kill him, since I never miss my mark." This was sufficient. Father Tarrillion was never molested, but if he had been his opponent would have fared the worst, as Father Tarrillion is well known for excellent marksmanship.

Later on Father Tarrillion was transferred to Fredericksburg, where he has been now for the past twentysix years without interruption. Here, too, he has a considerable missionary field, at least for a man of his age, but his sick calls do not take him more than twenty-five or thirty miles away from his church.

Father Tarrillion, in his younger days, before making his studies, learned several trades, and these have been very useful to him in his missionary life. So, for instance, besides being an organ builder, he is a very good watchmaker and locksmith, and in addition to this he learned also tinsmithing and the blacksmith's trade. He is, mereover, considerable of a carpenter. The clock in the steeple of the church at Frederickshurg was formerly

at Galveston, but as it refused to run, Bishop Dubuis presented it to Father Tarrillion, who repaired it and it is doing service to this day. And when-over there is a public celebration of a national or religious character at Fredericksburg, Father Tarrillion manufactures the necessary skyrockets and other fireworks to add to the splendor of the occasion.

It is said of him, also, that soon after his reaching Fredericksburg there was no tinsmith in the town for several years, so that the good father had to come to the rescue. The farmers. when coming to church on a Sunday, would bring their leaky tin utensils to Father Tarrillion and request him to solder them during the week, so as to have them ready for the following Sunday. The watches, too, of his parishioners he repaired for them, and as he never charged anything for his services he was overrun with custom.

An old man in his mission came to him once, and, stating that he was a poet, told Father Tarrillion that ho had translated the entire Bible into verse, pulling out at the same time a handful of manuscript, which he wanted Father Tarrillion to carefully examine. Moreover, he requested the father to have the work published for him, believing, like all poets, that there was a fortune in it.

The good father remonstrated with him as best he could, and informed him that Christians would not approve of any transformation of the Holy Scriptures into verse, when the soi disant poet flew into a passion and threatened to denounce the priest. The good father, however, remained calm, but inflexible; the poet died some years aferwards, and his verses were never more heard of.

Notwithstanding his advanced age Father Tarrillion looks extremely healthy and robust, and we voice the sentiment of all his friends in hoping that Almighty God may graciously spare his life for many years to come.

E. B. A.

At the last regular meeting of St. Patrick's No. 12, E.B.A., the following resolution of Condolence was unanimously adopted. Whereas, we have heard with deep regret

of the death of the beloved daughter of our esteemed Brother Afred A. Gloucester.

Be it resolved, that we the members of Branch No. 12 extend to Bro. Gloucester and his esteemed wife our sincere sympathy in this the time of their sad affliction, and we pray that the all wise Providence will give them strength to bear with Christian fortitude the sad loss they have sustained by the death of their only and beloved child.

Bo it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be spread on the minutes of this meeting, one sent to Bro. Gloucester and one to the Grand Secretary Treasurer for insertion in the Official Organ. Signed, J. J. Maloney, A. Mivelle, W. P. Murphy, I. J. Vickter-de J. J. Nightingale.

St. Mary's Branch, No. 31, Lindsay.

St. Mary's Branch, No. 31, held their first meeting since organization on July Sth, and said meeting was attended by the whole of the members who are taking great interest in the Association, as shown by their initiating 16 candidates, making a total of 39, and there is every reason to believe that several applications will be put in at the

next meeting.
The Toronto Branches have completed their arrangements for the Annual Excursion their arrangements and other games will to Oakville. Bateball and other games will be provided, and meals supplied on the Grounds; the proceeds being for St. Andrew's Church Fund.

Guelph.

At the last regular meeting of Our Lady's Branch, No. 3, C.M.B.A., the following re-

adution was unanimously adopted:
Moved by Bro. Frank X. Frank, seconded by Bro. M. J. Duignan, that whereas God in His infinite wisdom has been pleased to remove by the hand of death our exteemed Bro. Thomas Malrooney, therefore be it

Resolved that while humbly submitting to the will of Our Divine Redeemer we sincerely regret the loss of our earnest and devoted brother, and we desire to convey to his wife and family our sincere sympathy in this sad bercavement.
Resolved that those resolutions he entered

on the minutes of the branch, and that a copy of the same be presented to the widow of the deceased, and forwarded to THE GATHO-LIC REGISTER and Gatholic Record for publi-JAMES KENNEDY, Sec. ostion.

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