

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 9, 1898.

A USEFUL CATHOLIC LEAGUE.

What useful objects may be attained by a central, practical, united and energetic Catholic organization is illustrated in the annual report of the Catholic League of South London, a copy of which we have just received. It is, as it claims to be, "a record of steady progress, vigorous endeavor and brilliant success." Victory has been won on many occasions by the League, and signal benefits secured by it for the Catholic cause. A few extracts from the report will indicate its aims and its accomplishments so far. It says, for example, "the occurrences of the year have taught us, surely, how imperatively necessary it is that every mission should have in its midst an energetic branch. Circumstances considered, much useful work has been accomplished, but that a great deal still remains to be done before the Catholic vote can be said to be organized for the purpose of striking as effectively as possible on behalf of Catholic rights. The Catholic voting strength is evidently greater than has been anticipated, as may readily be seen when we consider that Father Brown at the last School Board election in Southwark polled 10,461 votes, or 1,205 votes more than the highest vote ever before recorded for a Catholic candidate in that division. With reference to the Guardians' elections in May, 1898, the executive has already adopted a resolution instructing the Election and Registration Committee to work in harmony with the Southwark Diocesan Workhouse Association, so that, where possible, the return of Catholic candidates may be assured, or, where such a course is feasible, the candidature of men and women favorable to Catholic interests may be materially assisted. In June, 1897, a motion was unanimously passed urging the Government to introduce a superannuation bill for elementary teachers as soon as possible. Mr. Balfour, in acknowledging receipt of the resolution, wrote a kindly letter, the contents of which, being marked "private," could not be divulged, but which, nevertheless, gave every hope that the question will be satisfactorily settled at an early date.

At a meeting of the executive, held in February, 1897, a letter was read from the present Bishop endorsing the action of the League in deciding to contest every South London division at the School Board election. From that time onward every effort was made to induce prominent Catholics to come forward as candidates, but without avail, except in Southwark. In April it was decided to run Father Brown for that division, and special attention was thenceforward paid to perfecting the Catholic organization there. The result has been a complete justification of the League's course of action. In March, 1897, the attention of the League was directed to the unjust treatment of Catholic poor children by the intolerant majority of the Camberwell Board of Guardians. The members of that body were asked to receive a deputation on the subject, and, signifying consent, Father St. John, Father Brown, Father Bernardine, Mr. J. H. Harris, and Mr. A. O'Neill waited on them. The interview was of a somewhat stormy and unsatisfactory nature, and the executive, being dissatisfied, another visit to the Board was arranged. Finally, on June 16 last, Father St. John, Mr. D. McCarthy and Mr. A. O'Neill waited on the Finance Committee of the Camberwell Board, and a more conciliatory disposition being evinced, matters were satisfactorily arranged. A promise

was elicited that Catholic children would not be detained unduly in the workhouse, but should be transferred at once to Catholic institutions. Moreover, the charges which had been made against the management of the Orpington Poor Law schools were so utterly disproved that now the Board has expressed its readiness to send Catholic children there if room can be found for them. Owing to the refusal of the London School Board to sanction the transfer of Catholic deaf and dumb children to the institution of Boston Spa, a deputation was sent in October to wait upon the Board. Canon Murnane was the spokesman, and the other members accompanying him were Messrs. Britten, Gibson, D. McCarthy and Mr. J. P. McAdam. The outcome of the interview was that the Board referred the League's memorial to one of the committees for consideration and report. Since then, however, Father Brown and Mr. Costelloe have been elected Board members, and have been placed on the Industrial Schools Committee.

That the good work done by the Catholic League of South London is being well appreciated is evident from the fact that nearly \$1,000 in donations was received at the annual meeting, from, amongst others, Cardinal Vaughan, the Duke of Norfolk, Judge Day, Judge Mathew, Lord Edmund Talbot, Sir Stuart Knill and others. Those who sent the money recognize not only the value of the work performed by the League, but the fact that money is necessary to secure the performance of it.

IRISH BANKING BUSINESS FLOURISHING.

Notwithstanding the £3,000,000 (\$15,000,000) which she has to pay to England every year over and above her fair share of taxation, business in Ireland is progressing by leaps and bounds. The year of 1897 stands out as a record one in the matter of a greater amount of deposits and cash balances, as shown by the returns from the Irish joint stock banks, than has hitherto taken place in the history of Ireland. This is gratifying to note, as no better gauge can be found of the steadily improving commercial trade conditions of that country than by such returns. The aggregate total of the cash balances and deposits is £39,300,000, or an increase of £62,000 as compared with the previous year, while in comparison with a decade since the increase is £10,000,000. The deposits in the savings banks have increased even more rapidly, and the totals of the Post Office Savings Banks and the Trustee Savings Bank amount to £8,942,000. The increase here is £623,000 as compared with the previous year.

Commenting upon these figures, the Montreal Star says that they "either indicate that Paddy was a better paid workman last year, or that he exercised a self-denying restraint upon the 'crathur'."

It is really about time that this insulting abbreviation "Paddy," as applied to Irishmen, should be dropped. It is not the Montreal Star only that is the offender. We notice it in newspapers of Irish proclivities and in articles evidently written by Irishmen themselves. There is no fun in it. It is, on the contrary, a slur on the race. As to the "craythur" business, we have already proved that Ireland has for years consumed less intoxicating drink per capita than Scotland or England.

THE "O'S" AND THE "MACS" IN A NEW LIGHT.

Few people, even amongst the descendants of Irishmen, are aware of the reason which induced many historical Irish families to drop the "Mac" or the "O" from their names. They will be sufficiently enlightened by the fact that a bill has been introduced at the present session of the British parliament making it lawful for Irishmen to resume the ancient prefix to their names. What has brought about the introduction of such a seemingly absurd measure is the strange fact that not long ago a charitable bequest made by a man who had signed his will in the true Celtic style was disputed on the ground that he had no legal right to sign his name in such a way. He had used the prefix "Mac" to the name which he had signed to his will; and the evidence went to show that he had not always been in the habit of thus defying the English law. The Courts actually revoked the will on a question of law—the law which forbade the use of the prefix, and of the existence of which not many were aware. This explains why the Bill alluded to has been introduced in the British House of Commons; and there is little doubt that it will become law.

In ancient times there was no such thing in Ireland as a "surname." A man had but one name, which was not necessarily the name of his family or sept; and his children were designated "son" or "daughter" of so and so. King Brian Boru, who reigned at the beginning of the eleventh century, desired to have the history and genealogies of the various Irish tribes preserved; and with this end in view he ordered that every

family and sept or clan in the land should adopt the name of some particular ancestor as a surname. The King's order was obeyed, and the name was in each case chosen, as a rule, from that of some predecessor distinguished for valor, or wisdom, or piety, or a similar good quality, and the prefix "Mac" (son) or "Hy," "Ma," or "O," signifying descendant of, was prefixed. The generality of the people added the prefix "Mac" to their names, the families of the highest standing adopting the "O." During the cruel misgovernment of Ireland by the Henrys and the Edwards, one of the laws passed enacted that the Irish should relinquish their native language, their native dress, and their native customs; and that they should change their family, or sept, or clan names, for English names—names indicating, in the main, trades, colors, and so forth—the penalty for non-compliance being forfeiture of their possessions. Some obeyed the law to the letter; others compromised by dropping the "O" or the "Mac" in order to save the family estate; and others, who had nothing else left them, clung to their old Celtic surnames.

It will be seen that although the Bill appears at first sight to be somewhat absurd, there is no absurdity about it, as the revoked will proves; while on the other hand, it has brought to light a question of some historic interest.

UNMEANING COMPARISONS.

It is open to reasonable doubt whether the Jewish Times of Montreal really represents the orthodox Hebrew of the city. If it does really represent them we hope that a responsible member of that community will lose no time in disavowing some sentiments which appeared in its issue of April 1st. In an article discussing the Zionist movement it says:—"The Zionist idea is like the poor, always with us. Since the black day when, very materially assisted by the internecine feud within the walls, Jerusalem was taken by Titus, it was the dream of our race that a time should come when Israel would return to the scene of its existence as a nation with a country. But this idea, up to the present, has been inseparable from Divine intervention and leadership, and has been considered almost synonymous and synchronous with the millennium. It has remained for the age, which Nordau deems one of unrestricted degeneration, to regard this Utopian vision as practical and more or less feasible. So an appeal has gone forth calling on all Jews to join the movement. So far as I can learn the product chiefly cultivated in Jerusalem is dirt, and the chief (if not the only) exports are schnorrers and begging letters. Emigration from this country to Palestine has, in the past, chiefly consisted of ancient Hebrews, who were considered by their relatives neither ornamental nor useful, and who are presumed to spend the residue of their days in winning Heaven for themselves and the connections who have practically cast them off. Occasionally one hears of these victims of premature Zionism through mislives couched in all the gorgeous language and exotic imagery of the Orient."

So far this editorial article in the Jewish Times contains matter for debate only between its author and his readers, who will doubtless feel inclined to resent the sneer at "Divine intervention and leadership," which was always considered to be a portion of the Jewish faith—theocracy—and at the winning of Heaven for themselves and the connections who have practically cast them off. That is their own business, into which we do not desire to obtrude ourselves.

But when the writer says that "one very cogent reason (against the Zionist movement) is that we are as much fitted to govern ourselves as are the French, the Greeks, or the Irish," we feel compelled to join issue with him. The Irish have had no chance to govern themselves because of the past misrule of the British Government. England, however, is just now giving them an opportunity to practice a good deal of self-government, which shows her confidence in their capacity for government. This is because England knows very well that Irishmen, wherever they have had an opportunity of governing, have governed wisely and well. Irishmen have governed India and Canada, France and Austria, Australia and Ceylon. Irishmen have governed New York for over half a century, and today it is the most prosperous, the best paved and lighted and the most progressive city in the world. The two distinguished Generals who may be said to "govern" the British army at present are Irishmen. These are facts which make Irishmen proud of their race and proud of their capacity for government.

The Catholic societies of Kingston are desirous of having Mr. Jas. Martin's new play, entitled "The Rebel of '98," produced in their city. Negotiations are under way with a view of having the Dramatic Section of St. Ann's Young Men's Society produce this interesting drama at an early date.

CHRISTIAN PRISON. METHODS.

The following notice is published at the head of the editorial columns of The Mirror, which hails from the Minnesota State Prison, at Stillwater:—

All persons receiving copies of The Mirror who are not in our regular lists will please consider such as sample copies. If, after reading, you conclude that The Mirror is worthy of patronage, send your name to this office for a trial subscription at rates as published above.

There is something grimly humorous in this when it is remembered that the paper is the work of convicts, but there is also something exceedingly human when one reads between the lines or takes the trouble to peruse the pages of a paper which, when the surroundings are considered, is very well edited indeed, and which has a healthy tendency to an optimistic view and a desire for better things, even while recognizing that a mere man is an erratic creature that frequently falls, with still, however, the hope of redemption through strength of will and a confiding faith in the only One who spoke words of cheer to the penitent thief. It is not the purpose of this note to criticize or make suggestions to the managers of prisons. It is not intended to add, at this late date, a word to what Charles Dickens wrote when he condemned the system of solitary confinement, after he had met a German with artistic tendencies in Cherry Hill Penitentiary, and told the world how a man's soul and talents were being wasted on the meagre mural decoration he had scope for in his cell.

The men who manage prisons are like other men, fitted for the positions in a disciplinary way, and whose surroundings have necessarily made them somewhat callous to the sufferings, the guilt or the innocence of the men whom fate or crime has placed in their charge. What is really the intention of this note is to point out the fact that after all there is a certain stratum of good concealed somewhere in the bosom of a man—be he criminal or otherwise—and sometimes it needs but little encouragement to find it and make it bubble forth like a spring of new life, new hope, new ideas, new repentance. A drop of the milk of human kindness can never be wasted, and it may be as productive of good as were the oil and wine of the Samaritan.

The discipline of the Stillwater Penitentiary we are not acquainted with, but when the convicts are permitted to publish a regular paper, which in most respects is bright and cheery, then it seems that a real reformation is the object of the State and the officials, and that its existence as a simply punitive institution would be doing an injustice in the records to the prison at Stillwater. A few paragraphs clipped at random from The Mirror will give some idea of the work being done and the intellects which might be lost, but which are just being stimulated behind prison walls:—

On the outer edge of Truth, and within easy hailing distance of Liardom, is where the gambling capitalist does his famous acrobatic feats of swift financiering.

"No one man owns a mortgage upon the convictions or opinions of another," says the editor of the St. Peter Herald. Just get into prison once, my friend, and you will think the entire world has an iron-clad mortgage on your 'conviction'.

The latest definition of the adjective 'showed' is used in qualifying the noun 'man' is, one who can steal without injury to the letter of the law.

If you are innocent or only indirectly guilty of an offence, the best way to prove such is by your conduct in the future. Judicial decrees and public sentiment are sometimes very harsh; but when people see that a man is trying hard to do what is right it goes a long way toward palliating the indiscretions of the past. A good man may fall occasionally, but no power on earth will keep him down if he makes up his mind to regain his lost standing in the worldly race.

There are many ways of 'getting on' in the world, but the only reliable way is to stay on when you once get on. This means avoiding unnecessary 'side trips' to prison.

The man who lives for self alone, whose heart seldom entertains a thought for aught but his own pleasure, has one good trait—he generally dies young, killed by his own selfishness.

The '98 Centennial Association of America have hit on a happy plan to arouse national interest in the history of the Old Land, by a monster pilgrimage to the places made sacred by the blood of the men who died in the memorable year. The excursion will be under the guidance of Thomas Cook and Son, of world wide fame, which means that all the comforts of travel and all the best opportunities for sight seeing will be provided. The steamer Berlin has been specially chartered and will sail from New York on July 2. In the first section of the itinerary, Queenstown, Cork, Limerick, Dublin, Ennis, and other points of interest the party disembarking in Dublin, on July 18.

The second section embraces Galway, Westport, Sligo, Enniskillen, Londonderry, Portrush, Belfast, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and London. The third section takes in London and Paris, and section fourth has on the itinerary Dublin, Chester, Warwick, Oxford, Paris and London. It is one of the greatest excursions ever organized, the rates are very moderate, and any information will be gladly supplied by Mr. W. H. Clancy, the able and courteous city agent of the G.T.R., at 137 St. James street.

Our Observer.

Once upon a time two celebrated men paid a visit to Montreal, and the eyes of the world were upon them wherever a submarine cable flashed little dots and dashes on little mirrors. And these two men sat down at a little table in a little room, in a little house, on a little street, yclept Cathcart, smoked little cigarettes, drank little cups of coffee or little glasses of other strange compounds and said little to anybody. Half a hundred sombre men stood silently by and said still less. They stole sly glances and sought each other's eyes shyly, while the two celebrated men moped about the table and moved manikins to the clicking of a job-sided clock that always had its head on one side and the place where it was wound up looked like an eye that was winking at you.

One of the celebrated men did not have a face like a Greek god; he had no palace on the Bosphorus, and it is not on record that he ever won a blue ribbon at a beauty show. This celebrated man was Steinitz. The other celebrated man was one who could tell more about quadratic equations in a minute than most people could in a life time. His name was Lasker. Now all this may not seem pertinent in the way of advice to young men. It is simply that by way of mere coincidence strange things have happened on St. James street.

One window at this particular time was decorated with a large board, laid out in squares, with one hole in each square, and a perspiring person stood in front of it and tried to look as if he liked it. He was assisted by a telephone. Immediately after this era in Canadian history, young men began to talk about chess. They spoke of somebody called Ruy Lopez, Evans gambit, French defence, Giuoco piano and several other strange things, and, last of all, they took to wearing shirts laid out on much the same pattern as a chess board, and for months you could hear them coming up the street before a corner had been turned, and instinctively knew that there was a real amateur chess player within hailing distance. Most people wondered if the correct move at the time would not be to cross the street or checkmate him some other way by buying a tie that would make one's family disown him.

Like all other things the epidemic burned itself out for the time being, and with it went the reign of startling shirts, piebald neckties and other monstrosities.

Now comes the second coincidence. A great chess player has been in Montreal during the past couple of weeks, and a most unassuming and very fine man he is. He has one thing to be thankful for, however; he plays blindfold games and wins them, too, but he does not see what hideous nightmares young men are asked to wear by the drapers and haberdashers. Of course the Russian gentleman knows nothing about this matter of dress reform.

It is merely, as before said, a coincidence that the advent of a great chess-player should be simultaneous with the advent of a white-backed checkered bosomed piece of shirting. Some of the patterns look as if unused portions of gingham had been transplanted, ironed and fitted to make up spare lots of cut and unused calico. But they are brilliant, dazzlingly so; they hit one in the eyes much in the same manner as the innocent youth collects the sun's rays on a hand mirror and shows them to you unexpectedly. Tenyson talked about young men's fancies, but he never saw any of our shirts, and Gilbert would have blushed a lovely blush if he could only have seen some of the garments which are intended to decorate the manly bosoms of some of our Canadian youth, who have a fondness for Neapolitan color, and forget that striking hues do not assimilate with a complexion that resembles a birch tree before the bark is peeled off.

A greenery-gallery,
Grosvenor gallery,
Live on your pa, young man

is about the only thing with any semblance to humanity who could get inside one of these wonderfully colored garments and be able to consume three meals a day and several packages of cigarettes. Strange thing, but cigarettes and other forms of well marked lunacy at ways appear to keep company with colored shirts. There should be a moral attached to this somewhere. Wear white shirts; they look cleaner even if it costs more to bribe the laundryman not to iron out all the buttonholes. Shirts are bad enough in their way; but the iris about the dove's neck never was a marker to some of the rainbow-hues that are intended to surround the youthful necks of the men who wear the peculiar feather tints are sombre drab in comparison. Don't wear them; they spoil the complexion, and would only match

light blue boots, with red heels and yellow stockings. A green hat with a cardinal rim makes an admirable top dressing. It does not matter much what the rest of the clothes are like. People will stop and look at you if you wear these shirts and neckties. Of course its none of your affair what they say or think about you.

MR. JUSTIN MCCARTHY AND HIS DEFENCE OF M. ZOLA.

In a recent issue we expressed surprise that Mr. Justin McCarthy had, in the course of a letter to a secular journal, approved of the action of Zola in regard to the Dreyfus matter. The London Universe in referring to the same subject has this to say:—

Mr. Justin McCarthy has been waited upon by some clever Englishman who has inveigled him into praising Zola for his manly patriotic courage in his recent action in his interference in the Dreyfus case. He is made to say that the writer came out of the quietude of his study to stand up at any risk for a great public principle. We do not know so much about that. He poked his nose into an affair which did not concern him, and one which certain qualified officers of the French army had pronounced their judgment adverse to the opinions of M. Zola, who may be an authority on literature, but certainly not on French military law. M. Zola is a Jew—a Venetian Jew at that—and should know more of Shylock's code than the code Napoleon. Mr. McCarthy has no right to judge a French court-martial, and should not be appealed to on the subject in preference to French generals and men of known honor and experience. He has been brought into court to bolster up the literary fudges of the foulest writer we have ever heard of read in the kingdom of France and Navarre. Zola the historiographer of harlotry, the sordid painter of the drunken rows of l'Assomoir, and the vulgar depravity of the close of the Debacle. It were better to leave this seeker after unclean notoriety to his devices.

THE '98 CENTENARY CELEBRATION.

The Centenary Organization Committee, representative of the various Irish National and English Catholic societies of this city, will hold their regular meeting on Sunday evening, the 10th inst., in Ilbertina Hall, Notre Dame Street. The business of the meeting will be the reports of the Executive and numerous other committees.

PERSONAL.

Mr. P. J. Shea, organist of St. Ann's Church, returned home on Monday last, after an extended tour through the Eastern and Middle States.

CABLE NOTES.

HAWARDEN, April 7.—Mr. Gladstone was feeling sufficiently well to day to take a stroll in the garden.

LONDON, April 7.—The monthly Board of Trade returns for March show an increase in the imports of £2,757,700, and a decrease in the exports of £813,400.

One of the leading features of the T. M. A. Benefit Bill to be held in the Academy, Friday, 22nd inst., will be the first presentation in Montreal of a one-act play, called "The College Student," by Howell Hansel, the leading man at the Queen's Theatre. Mr. Hansel is both the author and the star of the sketch, which is a bright and rattling little comedy. It gives him an opportunity to impersonate several different characters in the short space of 20 minutes.

An example has been shown by the Musical Art Society of New York which might well be emulated in Montreal. This organization, in pursuance of its aim to foster a taste for what is purest and best in choral music, has determined to supplement its efforts in the line of adequate performance of the masterpieces of this character with the offer of a prize for the best composition of the kind. This prize will be awarded annually. It consists of a purse of \$500 and the founders are Mr. and Mrs. Louis Butler McCagg. The conditions for the first competition are as follows: A competitor must have been for the past five years or longer a residence of the United States or Canada. The work shall be set to sacred words, Latin or English, for a chorus of about fifty voices, and the time of performance shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The compositions offered must be in the hands of the society before Sept. 1, 1898. The prize will be awarded by a board of three judges.

It is a matter of congratulation to see that the seed so bravely planted by the great O'Connell has not proved a barren effort. Catholic emancipation, then, under Gladstone, the disestablishment of what was known as the Irish Church, and now we have the Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury actually supporting the movement for a Catholic Church University for Ireland. In this he is supported by the Protestant Bishop of London. Time works wonders and it is only a matter of regret that it was ordained that those who worked so nobly in aid of Church and country have gone to their rest before seeing the results of their labors.

Hon. T. M. Daly, with certain associates, including Sir Charles Ross and J. B. McArthur, is applying to the British Columbia Legislature for permission to build a railway from the head of steamboat navigation on the Skeena river thence to the Yellow Head pass. If the line be built it will traverse a portion of the route which the Federal Government proposes to open from a point in British Columbia.