

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

At 761 CRAIG ST., Montreal, Canada.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: Country \$1.00, City 1.50, If not paid in advance \$1.50 (Country) and \$2 (City) will be charged.

TO ADVERTISERS: A limited number of advertisements of approved character will be inserted in 'THE TRUE WITNESS' at 15c per line, first insertion, and 10c per line on subsequent insertions.

All Business letters, and Communications intended for publication should be addressed to J. P. WHELAN & Co., Proprietors of THE TRUE WITNESS, No. 761 Craig street, Montreal, P.Q.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1890

Ontario Elections.

The great struggle is over, and the Mowat Government has been sustained triumphantly. The Canadian Know-nothings, who have been masquerading under the name of Equal Rights, have been snuffed under Mr. Meredith, who allowed himself to be mounted on the Protestant horse, by the Hamilton Spectator and the Mail, has been routed, his forces scattered and his own reputation irretrievably shattered.

Mr. Mercier's Joke.

Under the pressure of public indignation, at the scandal brought out by the sworn testimony of Mr. John P. Whelan, in the Superior Court, the Provincial Government has felt itself constrained to do something to appease popular wrath. The personal friends and favored suite of Mr. Premier Mercier were shown to have bled unmercifully, a public contractor, who was trying to get the remnant of his own out of the voracious maw of the Mercierites. Time, place and circumstance of the plundering of the contractor, were minutely given. The amounts were specified. Names of the recipients, L. Geller, Carrier, Paouad and the law firm of the Premier, Mercier, Beauvois & Co., were mentioned either in the witness box or in the interviews published in the daily press.

should be made a genuine tragedy for the Government, so the Hon. Mr. Lacoste, Q.C., Senator, appeared and informed the Commissioners that Hon. Mr. Tullon was then ready to be examined, and was anxious to state under oath that he knew nothing of the \$10,000, nor of the pretended attempt to bribe the Opposition. The Commissioners would not hear him. They were begged to give him an audience the following day. No, that could not be permitted, they were requested to listen to him on Saturday, but all in vain; they would not hear him at all. They were urged to adjourn until the following Monday at latest. That was found inconvenient by the Royal Commission, that was to have proceeded at lightning speed but they would and did adjourn until Tuesday, when the Provincial nominations will be going on all over the country, and nearly every public man occupied elsewhere, most of them miles away from the city. So ended the first act of Mr. Mercier's little comedy. The electors will, no doubt, take a hand in the performance, and on the 17th instant, by voting by majorities against the Government and its candidate, will show how keenly they relish the joke Mr. Mercier has cracked at their expense.

The Ober-Ammergau Passion Play.

While we saw in our Protestant contemporaries sneering references to the "Passion Play" at Ober-Ammergau, we refrained from references to it till trustworthy accounts had reached us. These are now to hand in the Liverpool Catholic Times of May 30, wherein we read that the testimony of the most trustworthy visitors who have witnessed the play set; mistrust and suspicion at rest. The Very Rev. Alphonsus O'Neill, Superior of the Passionists in Australia, lecturing on this subject lately at Sydney, stated that he went to Ober-Ammergau in 1871, strongly prejudiced. He feared that he might see something which would wound the religious susceptibilities of Catholics and afford non-Catholics cause for adverse comment. All his prejudices were quickly conquered and his fears soon dispelled. He witnessed the play in 1871 and 1880, and on both occasions the assemblage was stilled and awed by the scenes presented before them, and in the specially pathetic parts he saw strong men weeping like children. Artists, orators, writers, poets, gather there, and all are under the spell of the heart-melting solemnity of the representation; the feeling of reverence rises so supreme that the audience never even thinks of demonstrations of applause. The unaffected piety of the actors, and the all pervading air of solemnity raise the Passion Play high above the most powerful and the most thrilling theatrical performance, and the whole effect is so deeply moving, so soul-stirring, that the scenes and incidents linger in the memory of the spectator to his dying day. It will be remembered that the Prince of Wales, on seeing the performance, was so much affected that he sent for Joseph Meyst, who enacted the part of Christ, and taking a costly ring from his own finger, placed it with words of praise and admiration on the pious peasant's hand.

The play is really a religious ceremony, and the actors never during their lives forget the responsibility which rests upon them. The Vienna correspondent of the London Times, asserts emphatically that in private they lead, without exception, exemplary lives. "The chief actor is a man whose whole existence has been ennobled by the awful part which he has been called upon to enact for three decades in succession; but so it is with them all, and a stranger has not been many hours in Ober-Ammergau before he learns that the population of this village form truly a peculiar people." The fact is, the people are simple, sincere Catholics. Their knowledge of the world and of books is limited, but on the sacred Scriptures they are wonderfully learned. As Father O'Neill happily remarked in his lecture at Sydney, they live in an atmosphere of native art and native piety. The very approaches to the village, with the Stations of the Cross instead of milestones and the statues of the saints for guide posts, are characteristic of the inhabitants, and in the village itself the front of almost every house is decorated with a crucifix, whilst there is not one in the interior of which the cross and pictures and statues of the saints are not displayed. About eight hundred persons take part in each representation; married women are alone excluded. In the autumn preceding the play year, men of all ages, grown-up girls, and children have parts allotted to them, the selections being made by an examining committee of eighteen members. All who are eligible aspire to be in time enrolled in the cast of the Passion Play, and it is regarded as a disgrace to a family if one of its members be altogether excluded from a share in the representation. The actors are monthly Communists and each of them approaches the altar on the morning of the performance. On that eventful day Masses are celebrated from three to five a.m. and the faithful assist at them with fervent devotion. Seen afterwards all repair to the building in which the representation takes place. On the last performance close on five thousand spectators were present. Over one thousand were visitors from English-speaking countries and amongst them was the Duke of Edinburgh, who was accompanied by his children. The tableaux and the scenes were presented with artistic picturesqueness and moving dramatic effect. The Crucifixion was unspasmodically realistic, and whilst it lasted sobs were heard from all parts of all parts of the building. The play will be performed on every Sunday in June, July, August and September, and on seven week days. During that period the little village will be well taxed to provide accommodation for its numerous visitors. The Ober-Ammergau play offers the sole

example of the spirit which the Church endeavored in former days to infuse into theatrical performances. It aimed at keeping the theatre pure and teaching wholesome lessons of morality by means of the miracle-plays or "mysteria." The licentious spirit of the times forced it to abandon this undertaking. Let us hope that modern clarity and sensationalism will not prove fatal to the Ober-Ammergau representation. There is certainly some ground for apprehension on this score. Tourists and French sojourners are gradually transforming the village. The hamlet," writes a correspondent, "has now the look of a rising Spa. Advertisements of famous champagne brands, English soaps and oysters, American sewing machines and tobacco hang everywhere about; there is a bookseller with Trenchard volumes and French novels in his window; there are shops full of wooden knick-knacks familiar to tourists in Switzerland; photographers abound, and in the new hotels, waiters with white ties serve the customers in dining-rooms which embellish the sites where ten years ago stood cow-sheds." The simple rusticity of the inhabitants of Ober-Ammergau will ere long be a thing of the past; their religious earnestness will, however, we feel assured, prevent them from converting the Passion Play into a mere theatrical performance suited to its sacred and solemn theme.

Fete Dieu.

On Sunday last the procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament was held in this city. Never, perhaps, in Montreal, was the feast celebrated with so much magnificence of display. The line of march was longer than usual, and the members of religious and other organizations taking part was larger than we have heretofore seen. Our French Canadian friends excel in the gorgeousness of such pageants, in honor of the festivals of the Church, but on Sunday last the Irish Catholic contingent was not at all behind. There was only one feature in any way regrettable, and that was the departure from the usual protocol of placing all the Irish Catholic congregations behind the Dais. St. Patrick's, St. Ann's, St. Mary's, St. Anthony's, although forming different parishes, are all members of the one family, and should endeavor to be so regarded. Even in religious ceremonies, such as the procession of last Sunday, it is better for them not to scatter their forces. St. Patrick's made a grand display, but had the other parishes above mentioned, with their numerous associations, instead of being here and there in the march, been in line with their own people, they would have presented an appearance of strength, respectability and religious fervor not soon to be forgotten. Father Dowd, who invariably headed the Irish contingent in past years, was, although much improved in health, not able to occupy his usual place in the procession; his absence was the subject of many regrets.

Defeat Mercier.

We again urge upon our readers to leave nothing undone to insure the defeat of Mr. Mercier and his government. The contemptuous manner in which he has treated the representations made to him, for Irish Catholic Cabinet representation, must not be overlooked. Under the criticism of Hon. Messrs. Tallon, Flynn and others, the glaring mismanagement of the affairs of the Province is being made apparent. With Mr. Mercier at the head of a government for the next five years, provincial bankruptcy is inevitable. Nothing could be more striking than the contrast between the business like management of Hon. Mr. Mowat, in Ontario, and the reckless corruption of the Mercier party in Quebec. By all means let good men be elected to the legislature, or we shall be financially ruined in this Province. The name of Mr. Matthew Hearn, Q. C., is mentioned as a probable candidate in Quebec West. He is an old liberal, and would be a vast improvement on the late member, Mr. Owen Murphy. Mr. Hearn is an honest man, a sound lawyer and a vigorous speaker. He will not tolerate any boodling, and will not be connected with shady transactions. The name of Mr. Phelan, of Waterloo, has also been mentioned in connection with the representation of Shefford. We fear the report is too good to be true. Mr. Mercier's wiping out of \$223,000 of Municipal indebtedness of the county was made to prevent any such candidature as the doctor's. Despite all the efforts of the government, should Mr. Phelan come forward he will be elected by a sweeping majority, and give us another representative of whom we may feel proud. If every man does his duty in his own locality, the influence of our people will be acknowledged in the future. Let the cry be all along the line, "Turn Mercier Out."

Twelve Children in One Family.

The prolific qualities of the French Canadian race are something wonderful. Some time ago the Hon. Honore Mercier, Premier of Quebec, offered a free grant of 100 acres of land in that Province to any resident of it who is a father of twelve or more children born of lawful marriage. The number of applications he has received since is so large that the Premier is beginning to think that he has made a serious mistake; and, if this continues he may run short of land! All the applicants so far have duly proven the justice of their claim, and some of them have over twenty children. Every one belongs to the French Canadian class; and if the people of the same element who have removed to the New England States are equally fringing one. With reference to the above, clipped from the New York Tablet, it may be as well to remark that the first person to make application for the bounty of a hundred acres was an Irishman, whose name is J. O. Neville, of Drochester street, Montreal. Throughout the province the number of Irish applicants are in a higher ratio than any other nation-

ality, not excepting the French Canadians. At least that is our information to date of writing. The number of applicants down to the present time is 1,580, some of them having as many as 28 living children. One man had 28, but only 16 survive. A country which has a showing in social statistics need not fear comparisons on the score of right conduct with any nation in the world.

The Bigots Rebuked.

Never, perhaps, in the recollection of the present generation has the old saying, Vox Populi, Vox Dei, been more emphatically proved than in the recent Ontario general elections. The voice of the People is the Voice of God. Manhood suffrage for the first time in the Province delivered a verdict, and that verdict was a terrible rebuke to the bigots. We could admire them if they were honest bigots. We could give them the credit of mistaken zeal. But knowing them, and knowing what they were after, we must censure in the verdict of the electorate, which is that they are not worthy of confidence, not worthy of belief.

Of course it is quite usual and quite natural that the organs of the defeated opposition should frame excuses and strive to break the fall of their friends. Among these the most amusing is perhaps the Toronto Mail. One can almost sympathize with the No-Popery pump with its shriek of a dry snoker, while poor Ned, at the handle, endeavors to pump enough water to quench the thirst of the warmest Equal Rights. But the spring has run dry. The man who sunk the well chose the wrong spot, and his anger wasn't of the right sort. But, chaffing apart, the Mail admits in its own way what amounts to a confession of failure. Listen to it:

"Mr. Mowat's remarkable victory, which will make his term as Premier extend over the long period of twenty-two years, was due in the main to the fact that the people have confidence in his individual probity. His administration of affairs has been singularly free from scandal, and it must be admitted also that his legislation has been progressive, and, on the whole, well in accord with the spirit of the people and of their institutions."

And this was the sort of Government which the Mail did its level little best to defeat! Why did it not say this before, not after, the elections? But—

"On the other hand, omitting Mr. Meredith himself, the Opposition is weak and lacking both in ability and experience. The important trusts which devolve upon a Provincial ministry are unquestionably safe in the hands of Mr. Mowat and his colleagues than they would be in those of the men who form Mr. Meredith's immediate entourage. Again, it was evident from the outset that the platform of the Opposition did not fit in with their past. It was hard, considering their relations

to the Ottawa Government, for any intelligent person to believe that such politicians as Mr. Oreginton and Mr. E. F. Clarke were in earnest in demanding the extinction of clerical privileges." "Tut, tut, man. What is the use of making a gazabo of yourself, because you know how? Nobody ever gave the persons you mention credit for sincerity. And, as for excepting Mr. Meredith, the Agnostic, he was no more sincere than Oreginton, his fugleman. But as the Mail, with charming candor, says:— "He was the speaking tube of the Ottawa Government, and the people in the most emphatic manner declared that in their opinion he could not be sincere."

Quite so. If the Opposition and its allies were snuffed under it was because the people knew they were not sincere. Even were they sincere, the result would have been the same, only more so. A sincere rascal always deserves to be hanged; an insincere rascal may be let go with a reprimand. That is what the verdict in Ontario means to those who read aright.

But above and beyond all is the great fact that the old Reform Party of the Upper Province has by its manhood vote assured the people of Lower Canada that they could not be led astray by the cries of bigotry, intolerance and fanaticism. They have extended a fraternal hand, so to speak, across the bloody chasm, and by their votes declared their trust and confidence in their Catholic fellow-countrymen. All honor, therefore, to the Reform party of Ontario.

But we cannot part from our friend the Mail without a word as to the concluding paragraph of the editorial from which we have quoted. It says:—

"A radical change in the political situation is imminent. The retirement of Sir John Macdonald, which in the natural course of events must shortly take place, will throw one if not both of the old factions into a state of confusion; and it is highly desirable, in the interest of this Province in particular, that men of Mr. Dalton McCarthy's stamp should have a hand in framing the new dispensation, whatever it may be."

Just imagine that poor creature, Dalton McCarthy, having a hand in anything except, as Sholly wrote—

"Entangling the feet of Justice in the coils of law."

What sort of a dispensation would that be which should be delivered by a man who could not find time to visit William and speak against Rykert—Orangeman, boodler and defender of the Jesuits—but who could stamp the country against anyone who carried the banner of reform? If the Mail desires to be believed, let it not talk fast. It may quite naturally desire to tout the McCarthy horn, but it should beware of false notes. Henceforth Dalton McCarthy is a dead duck in politics, and if he is too narrow between the ear for duck shot to take effect let him thank a merciful providence for having made him so, say his prayers and go to bed.

ONTARIO ELECTIONS.

Table with columns for 1890 and 1886, showing Constituency, Government, Opposition, and Maj. (Majority) for various regions like Addington, Algoma, Brant, etc.

LITERARY REVIEW.

THE NEW MOON. New Moon Pub. Co., Lowell, Mass. This dainty little magazine is replete with good things for June. The serial "Foretold by a Gipsy" reaches a climax of interest. Other charming stories and poems up to the usual standard make up the number.

AMINTA. By Cornelius O'Brien, D. D., Archbishop of Halifax. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Montreal: W. Foster Brown & Co., 223 St. James street, Montreal, Canada.

This, the latest contribution to the native poetry of Canada, is intended as its revered author states in the preface not "for the light and thoughtless, but for those who, having received a liberal education, reflect at times on the unrest of modern intellects, and seek to learn something of its cause. Having thus given an idea of the intention of the work, the preface or dedicatory sonnet to St. Cecilia may be quoted as a very good specimen of its poetic merits:—

ST. CECILIA. A SONNET. A shell lies silent on a lonely shore, High rocks and barren strand with frowning brow, Whither no freighted ships e'er turn their bow Their treasures on the lashed sand to pour; Afar the white-robed sea-gull loves to soar, But pure as victim for a nation's vow A lovely maiden strikes the shell and oar Its magic charms, and sadness reigns no more. Thus Christian poetry, thus on pagan coasts, For ages mute had lain thy sacred lyre, Untouched since from the prophet's hands it fell, Till fair Cecilia, taught by angel hosts, Assumed its music to the heavenly choir, And gave a Christian voice to Olo's shell. The work is divided into three books, and the publisher's imprint will vouch for the neatness and attractiveness of its get-up. The price, \$1, places it within the reach of all.

CHRIST ON THE ALTAR; INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SUNDAYS AND FESTIVALS OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR.—By Right Rev. Louis de Goodbrand, D.D., Bishop of Burlington, Vt. New York, Cincinnati, Chicago: Benziger Bros.

In the preface to the above volume it is stated "This is not a work for the priests and the religious of both sexes only, it is intended principally for the people, and for those who are called to instruct them." A visit to the Holy Land, undertaken, as the author states, in the hope of making more real and life-like the descriptions and incidents portrayed in the book, materially assisted the object in view, namely, to interest and hold the attention of the reader while aiming at his higher instruction. The ecclesiastical year is here divided into four parts:—That from Advent to Lent; that from Lent to Trinity Sunday from Trinity Sunday to the autumn part; and from the latter to the close of the ecclesiastical year. For those who are accustomed to the perusal of devotional works and to find comfort and profit in the meditations that naturally arise in their minds as the result of such reading, this work will supply a want, while to the artistic mind it recommends itself by the beauty of its outward appearance, the richness of the binding, the quality of the paper, clearness of the type, and by the numerous illustrations in which it abounds. Besides two chromo-lithographs, it contains sixty-three full-page illustrations of the Holy Land and of Bible History, ornamental initials, tail-pieces, etc., and is altogether a triumph of the publisher's art.

TORONTO'S PAUPERS.

Professor Goldwin Smith on Destitution in that City—Undesirable and Desirable Immigrants.

TORONTO, June 9.—At the final meeting of Associated Charities to day Professor Goldwin Smith made an address, in the course of which he said: "We could not reject the evidence of the figures before us, which proved that sometime during the winter season not less than four per cent. of the population of Toronto had been receiving relief of some kind. But let me repeat what was said to those that expressed incredulity or anger at the time, first, that the mere acceptance of relief in a special emergency does not constitute a pauper; secondly, that we have no reason to believe that distress has increased in Toronto out of proportion to the increase in population; and thirdly, that it is more than likely that a large number of the distressed in our case are immigrants, or at least new comers to the city. Whether the community will benefit by the restriction of the labor market, it is no business of ours to determine. The line we have taken is simply that of warning against unsuitable or unscrupulous immigration, from both of which distress has arisen and burdens have been cast upon the charity of the city. We deprecate, though we ought not, perhaps, severely to blame, the ever zeal of agents of steamship companies anxious to get passengers for their lines. We deprecate government aid to immigration so far as our province is concerned, and without prejudice to the requirements of any province, like Manitoba, whose circumstances may be different from the others. But if immigrants come of their own accord and with a fair assurance of employment when they get here, this is a part of the Queen's Dominion, and there is nothing whatever in their class or calling, maybe, to warrant us in driving them away. The American legislation against contract labor, regarded from our special point of view, is the very reverse of wise since it excludes just those immigrants who are assured of employment, and therefore cannot be burdens on charity here."

He warned Canadians against the evils arising out of horse racing which, he said, makes England the blackest of all gambling hills, and speaking of the epidemic of strikes in Europe, which has extended to Toronto, he warned social leaders who spend their holidays in Europe to remain at their posts of duty.

St. Jean Baptiste Society.

At a meeting of French-Canadian ladies, which was called by Mrs. Grenier, it was resolved to have a grand festival at Schermer park on the 24th of June. Mrs. Grenier will preside at the refreshment table and Mrs. Justice Jette will act as treasurer. Mrs. Oulme, wife of the Speaker of the House of Commons, will head the Tableaux, Mrs. Hon. J. R. Thibodeau and Mrs. O. A. Gauthier will preside at the flower table. Mrs. F. A. Laramie has charge of the ice cream department and Mrs. G. A. Huggins of the table of cigars. A list of all the ladies will be given as soon as all the arrangements are complete.