

VISION NO. 6 meets on... at 816 St. Lawrence... Officers: W. H. Turner, McCarl, Vice-President;... Recording-Secretary: Denis Street; James... Joseph Turner, Secretary, 1000 St. Denis

VISION NO. 8, meets on... at 268 Notre Dame... Officers: Al-Gallery, M.P., President;... Vice-President: Devlin, Hec. Secretary:... Recording-Secretary:... Financial:... Standing Committee: O'Donnell, Marshal.

ES' AUXILIARY, Di... Organized Oct. 10th... Meetings are held in St. ... 92 St. Alexander, ... Sunday of each month ... on the third Thursday. President, Miss Ann... Vice-president, Mrs... Recording-Secretary, ... Financial-Secretary, ... Treasurer, Mrs. Charlotte... Chaplain, Rev. F...

S SOCIETY.—Established 6th, 1856, incorporated 1864. Meets in ... 92 St. Alexander, ... Monday of each month... Meetings last Wednesday. Rev. Director, ... P.P. Presidents, ... Justice C. J. Doherty; ... E. Devlin, M.D.; 2nd ... Durran, B.C.L.; Treasurer, J. Green, Correspondent, John Cahill, Secretary, T. P. Tansey.

OUNG MEN'S SOCIETY.—1885.—Meets in ... 22 St. Alexander, ... each month, at ... Spiritual Adviser, Rev. ... C.S.S.R.; President, ... Treasurer, Thomas ... Sec., Robt. J. Hart.

S COURT, C. O. F., ... second and fourth ... month in their ... and Notre ... H. C. McCallum, C. ... ne, secretary.

S T. A. & D. S. ... on the second ... month in St. ... 2 St. Alexander St. ... after Vespers. Com ... Management meets ... first Tuesday of every ... p.m. Rev. M. J. ... President; W. P. ... Vice-President; Jno. ... Secretary, 716 St. Ar ... St. Henri.

CANADA, BRANCH ... ed, 13th November ... 26 meets at St. ... 92 St. Alexander ... Monday of each ... regular meetings for ... of business are ... 2nd and 4th Monday ... at 8 p.m. Spiritual ... M. Callaghan; Chan ... Curran, B.C.L.; Pre ... J. Sears; Recording ... J. Costigan; Finan ... Robt. Warren; ... H. Feeley, Jr.; Med ... Drs. H. J. Harrison, ... of and G. H. Merrill.

# The True Witness



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Lecteur  
Assemblée Législative  
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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.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### DAILY DISASTERS.

Elsewhere we publish an account of the shipping disaster, the details of which came to us from Marseilles. We might well quote the words of the "Boston Post," in dealing with the subject of the forest fires throughout the New England States, in which that organ says:—"This phenomenon, however, is entirely of home production. And it means a great deal more than any distant volcanic disturbance can mean. It marks a vast destruction which many years will not fully repair." In this remark we hear the natural cry that goes up from each one as soon as the great calamity comes to his own door. With a kind of indifference we read or hear of the disasters in distant lands. But when these commence to multiply to an abnormal degree; when they grow so frequent that we almost become accustomed to them; when we find them of daily, and almost hourly occurrence, we begin to feel that the danger is ever drawing closer and is gradually encircling us with its chain—and we know not the moment that ours will be the next fated region. In no part of the world to-day is there a set of people free from such calamities. Taking up the ordinary daily paper we are told of the terrific collision at Marseilles and the hundreds of lives that were lost; in another column we read of the scores of people killed by cyclones in Texas and Georgia; on the same page the death dealing elements are recorded as playing havoc along the valleys of the Missouri and Mississippi; then below is an account of the people killed in the conflagrations that have raged for weeks in our own section of the country; Turtle mountain again menaces the remains of the town of Frank; Pelée is in active eruption; the southern seas are swept by hurricanes that engulf whole ships and hundreds of lives; railway collisions are of hourly occurrence; the plague is mowing down human beings at the rate of a thousand per week, in India; and the forms of these papers are made up with smaller items of murders, suicides and robbers. Such the spectacle that the world presents to-day.

There are some who laugh at the idea of prayers being sent up to heaven for the protection of the people and of the country. But generally they who so scoff and ridicule are the most miserable of cowards when the hour of danger actually comes. In this connection we might well quote another passage from the same article, as cited above, and we do so to furnish these poor, unbelieving, trembling creatures with an idea of how a Protestant paper considers the matter. The "Post" says: "It is an exceptional experience (referring to the fires). We can only await the rain and pray for it." And this is exactly what our faithful Catholic population of Quebec has been doing. It was enjoined by Our Divine Lord, on one important occasion, to "watch and pray." Not only to wait for God's good time and to watch for the Providential change but also to "pray," that what was needed might be accorded. Again He has said plainly "Ask and you shall receive." But He insists upon the asking. If we do our share of the contract, if we do the praying and the asking—the easier part by far—He will do the rest. But we should not hesitate in the asking. It is a necessary act upon our part; it is an acknowledgment of our dependence upon Him, and He has made it exceedingly easy for us. Never before was the efficacy of prayer more abundantly proven.

### THE WELCOME RAIN.

It would seem as if the general appeal that went up in so many churches and from so many hearts on Sunday last had the desired effect of bringing the most needed rain. It came as a blessing from heaven; it came to satiate the parched earth and impart fresh life to the burned up vegetation; it came, above all, to put an end to those endless forest fires that have been so long devastating the country. We have no recollection of the time when rain was more needed in Canada, and when its appearance produced an effect such as that which inspires us to chant the "Te Deum." The fearful menace that hung over the land, "neath the shadow, or rather the glare of which, property and even life seemed in momentary danger, grew to such proportions that the people instinctively had recourse to prayer.

It is told that the Atheist when in presence of a terrific and mortal danger is naturally impelled to cry out "My God." It is only when man is confronted with elements beyond his control, and in presence of which he must bend as the twig in the tempest, that he turns to the source of all power and the Hand that guides all nature, for that help which can be secured no place else. There are exhibitions daily of the Omnipotence of the Creator, and in them, by way of contrast, we read the significant lesson of our own impotence. When the volcano belches forth the boric streams that bury entire centres of industry and life; when the thunder flings its electric bolt into the midst of men; when the storm lashes the ocean into a fury that engulfs all the proudest productions of human ingenuity; when the avalanche mows a path down the declivities of the mountain; when the wind rages with the might of the hurricane, lifting and scattering, human habitations as if they were but chips; when the earthquakes and rocks, and finally bursts its crust, swallowing up all that is within reach of the cataclysm; when fire assumes the mastery and devastates entire countries, leaving but ashes where prosperity smiled; in a word, whenever the Hand of Providence lets loose the reins of control over the elements, man ceases to be the creature of power, of invention, of genius; he sinks into his native nothingness, and he must either perish miserably, or turn to the Master of all things and beg for mercy and salvation in the hour of peril.

Daily are we taught these graphic lessons; but how soon, alas, are they not forgotten!

### AGAIN THE POPE'S HEALTH.

It is actually a fact that some writers are in a hurry for the excitement that the end, whenever it may come, of the illustrious Vicar of Christ, will create. One would think so. Again and again they have him ill, shaky, slowly dying,—then dead; when lo! the next news we receive is an account of some special audience or of some exceptionally important public function performed by His Holiness. Each has his own way of putting the subject, the old crude form is too well understood to awaken any interest now; a fresh and more detailed, or a more sincere-looking method must be adopted, or otherwise no credit is expected. Here is the method of the Roman correspondent of "Le Temps" of Paris. On June 8th he writes thus: "I have had occasion, during the last few days to see a number of persons on intimate terms with the entourage of the Holy Father and I find their opinion is almost unanimous that Pope Leo has been slowly wasting away, atrophying, for some time. The Pope rises late and does not celebrate Mass, except on Sunday, when no one assists him except the faithful Centra, who serves him at the Masses. The Pontiff appears not to desire that others should see his infirmities. The trembling of his hands has become noticeable. Dr. Laponni requires the Pope to drink iced medicinal water in the morning. The ice is used mainly because the Pope is subject to slight inflammation of the gums."

The same story; he has seen some one, who saw persons, who had met with others, who were distantly acquainted with a few who had access to those who are on intimate terms with the entourage of the Holy Father; and from such sources it was easy to glean that the Pope being in his ninety-third year is not quite as lively as he was twenty-five years ago, and possibly does not perform the exact same routine of duty.

And the wise correspondent has the precaution to end by saying:—"I do not wish to unduly alarm the devoted friends of Leo XIII., but nevertheless, I am compelled to state that the condition of his health actually is far from satisfactory." Very safe and fair conclusion. Without wishing to alarm the friends of any person, it would be a pretty good guess to say that his, or her health actually is far from satisfactory—especially when the person in question has passed, long ago, four score and ten.

As an appendix to the above, a Roman despatch of the 9th June says: "The Pope's health is improving." So much the better for the world, if not for "Le Temps."

### A MISER'S WEALTH.

Oh! the sad, sad story, ever the same of the sacrifice of all "that makes life worth possessing" for a few dollars that man must leave behind him. There is no passion so overpowering and so miserable as that of the miser. He has been caricatured in romance, in song, in burlesque; he has been denounced from every source of authority; but he still reappears, somewhere or somehow and he is miserable, and he renders the world uncomfortable around him. His sole pleasure—if it can be called a pleasure—lies in hoarding and counting over his gains. And he loses all other feelings; his heart grows hard and he becomes distrustful of all his fellow-creatures. Jealousy is mild and Revenge is milder still when compared to that all-absorbing passion that will sacrifice the dearest interests and the most tender ties in life, in order to glut its own thirst, or hunger for gold. And to think that money is only of use in as far as it can produce or secure comforts and enjoyments. He drags out a few miserable years, absolutely devoid of either pleasure or ease and dies leaving all the sources of his misery and worry behind him.

Every day examples come to light. Last week, from Rochester, we read the following:—

George Washington Todd died in Hamilton, Ont., the other day. He was widely known as a beggling tramp throughout Southern Canada and Western New York. But what gives interest to George Washington Todd at the present time is that he left \$53,000 behind him when he passed on to another world. Half of this sum was deposited in Western New York counties.

This man's story reads like a romance; but it shows how insane such a passion can make a man. He had made money as a peddler when he fell in love with a farmer's daughter and sought her hand in marriage. She refused him and shortly afterward he disappeared. He came East and travelled with his pack for some years through Erie, Monroe and Onondaga counties and also through Southern Canada. His one idea was to hoard money and he became so avaricious that the prices he asked for his goods were so high that his onetime customers refused to buy from him. He then threw away his pack and became a tramp, securing his living without paying for it.

The end is easy to imagine. Following is the schedule of Todd's wealth: Bank and promissory notes, \$115; securities and bonds, \$24,194.48; on his person, \$38.66, and in the banks, \$28,751.68. Most of his money was banked in this state.

The petition also states that there are no debts against the estate.

A number of poor relatives of this strange man have been found, and what was of no use to him in his lifetime will prove of considerable benefit to those who were actually in need all that time.

The lesson to draw is never to allow any passion to get full possession of the mind and heart, otherwise it will triumph in the end.

### A PESSIMISTIC VIEW.

There are Roman correspondents upon whose accuracy we have generally good reason to depend; but sometimes, while their facts may be sufficiently correct, their deductions take the hue of their momentary surroundings. One of these is "Vox Urbis," the correspondent of the New York "Freeman's Journal." As a rule, this writer is pretty sure of his data and he rarely gives way to rash or unreflected conclusions. But, like all other men, he is liable to his moments of either weakness or forgetfulness; and one of those moments must have come to him on May 21st when he penned the following:—

"The news which has most interested at the present moment in Rome is that which comes from France. This evening's papers announce that in the French Chamber of Deputies the anti-clericals have begun the debate on the relations between Church and State in France, and even the most sanguine of the prelates in Rome have abandoned what little hope they entertained until now in a cessation of hostilities against the Church. The Concordat will be abrogated, and whatever the ultimate results for religion may be the immediate future is very dark indeed. It is not at all impossible that within a month or two France will be plunged in civil war. The patience of the moderately minded has been strained to the furthest limit, and the frequent instances of resistance to the tyranny of Combes and his minions are but the prelude to an outbreak which will involve the greater part of the country. In the present temper of the Government it will not be surprising to find Christianity utterly proscribed in France. With the abrogation of the Concordat the civil authorities will attempt to take possession of all the ecclesiastical buildings through the length and breadth of France, and the stipends of all the French priests and bishops will be at once suppressed."

This is decidedly a pessimistic view of the situation. There is no doubt that the situation in France has been alarming; but it is equally easy to see that the Combes Ministry has almost run its course. The civil war predicted is not at all likely to arise, for the forces of the atheistic crew that hold the reins of power for the moment are growing weaker through pure exhaustion. They have spent their superfluous strength in seeking to carry to savage and barbaric extremes their iconoclastic laws and they can no longer check nor breast the rising tide of popular, or rather national, resentment. There is no danger that the Concordat will be suddenly abrogated. France could not afford any such act of suicidal folly; and the Government that would push the country to the abyss will find that before it allows itself to topple over, body and soul, into the gulf below, it will turn, take a firm hold, brace up, and repel the assassins of its existence. Moreover, the very course taken by Rome is indicative of a strong and abiding faith in the ultimate triumph of the cause of Truth. Hence it is that we regard such pronouncements as those we have just quoted as so much nervousness, in the author, that had to find a vent.

And yet we do not impugn the sincerity of the correspondent, for, in the whirl of European politics to-day, especially in presence of France's mad career, almost any kind of bewilderment is excusable.

### THE SENATORSHIP.

Last week we were painfully obliged to draw attention to the small and narrow methods of "Le Journal," in connection with the succession to the seat in the Senate vacated by the death of the late Senator O'Brien. If anything, the remarks of that organ in an issue of this week, are still worse. That there may be no mistake we translate them literally. "Le Journal" casts the burden of

blame on what it calls "a ministerial organ," and quotes from it, without giving its name. It says:—

"A ministerial organ declares itself favorable to the appointment of a French-Canadian, in succession to the late Mr. O'Brien, to the Senate. Here is what it says in its issue of the 2nd June. 'It is said that the Victoria division which the late Senator O'Brien represented contains a large French-Canadian population; it would be an excellent occasion to appoint a French-Canadian.' Would it be Hon. Mr. Prefontaine who would be the cause of the delay that the Government displays in the appointment of a successor to Mr. O'Brien? Not possible! And is the organ quite sure that its wish will be granted? Still less likely."

That the "Journal" should seek to make a tiny bit of political capital out of the delay, and thereby have a rap at a political opponent may be very natural; but surely it is not necessary to do so at the expense of the Irish Catholic element. What on earth have we ever done to those people that they should seek to deprive us of every vestige of what belongs to us in the political, as well as the municipal domains? We find no difference, as far as this narrowness of spirit goes, between the "organ," which suggests such a thing, and the "Journal" that takes advantage of it to complicate matters and to assist in the usurpation—if such were possible. They both are imbued with the same unfairness.

There is a small section of French-Canadian public men, and a couple of newspapers who persist in keeping up this campaign of hostility. There is an old and a splendid motto that French chivalry has consecrated: "noblesse oblige." To this inspiring dictum the vast majority of our French-Canadian fellow-citizens are faithful. There is in their attitude towards us something fine and conciliatory. They know and they feel the necessity of a bond of union between us; they are aware that we have mutual interests that spring from a common faith; they see that our aims and theirs are harmonic and that the same precepts govern us in matters of faith and in all that pertains to higher life, to the prosperity of this world and the salvation of the next. We deeply appreciate these fine sentiments and we heartily reciprocate them.

### OPPRESSION.

There is a great outcry to-day against oppression in almost all its forms. The "Evening Post," of New York, has a lengthy editorial upon the situation and suggestive of remedies. It thus recalls some of the deeds of oppression the world over to-day:—

"One horror of cruelty has followed another upon another. Scarcely had the atrocities in the Congo Free State forced their way through official concealment to public notice, when the brutal outrages upon the Jews of Bessarabia shocked every reader of the dispatches. Next came the revelations of the hardships and oppression from which Italian laborers in this country were made to suffer, and finally, through indictment by a Federal grand jury, the discovery that a system of slavery, or something really worse than slavery, was practised in several counties of Alabama."

Such the list of examples of oppression in the world; now as to the remedies. The same organ says:—

"The further question arises, how is the sympathizer to make his sympathy effective? What weapons is he to put in the hands of the poor victim of man's inhumanity, which will enable him, once rescued, to become his own defender?"

In reply to these questions we are told:—

"It is when we ask and really try to answer such questions that we, who live in a democracy, are forced to see that the ultimate remedy for oppression must be political as well as moral. Pile your moral and educational remedies for such evils as high as you please, you will not be really efficient until you make use of the remedy which the history of this country and the nature of our government show to be the only one that is compelling and complete—the political remedy."

We can fully understand the weight of political influence; but the remedies are as incomplete as is the list of the actual oppressions in the world to-day.

There is an oppression going on in France of a religious character, that carries with it all the characteristics of open robbery. But that is not considered in the list of the oppressions that are being inflicted upon the peoples of the earth. There is an oppression of another class that is widespread over this continent, and a taste of which we have had in sections of Canada—the infliction of educational restrictions upon the Catholic parents, in antagonism to their interests and to their consciences. There is no remedy suggested for these and scores of other oppressions affecting either particular races or particular elements, religious and otherwise in this great free country of America. Quite possibly these are not looked upon as actually oppressive. To some oppression requires an element of brutality, of murder, of wholesale destruction in order to be sufficiently important to arrest the attention.

And in the list of remedies there are two which have been left out; the educational and the religious. It is wrong in theory and in practice to claim that political remedies alone can be effective. In a word, the idea is disjunctive and characteristically American. The reduction of all matters of interest and of every possible situation to the level of politics, and the measuring of every movement and of every social or national action by the mere political standard are what we find prevailing in America to-day. But when it is universally admitted and abundantly proven that politics are corrupt and the American system of politics is the most corrupt of all, it is a poor consolation for the future to know that no other standard can be used in weighing and gauging the influences and counter-influences around us.

There are fundamental principles of Catholicity, which, even though antagonistic to those of daily politics, would tend to rectify much of the wrong done in the world, and that would destroy the force of oppression in every centre, if only they were adopted, or if they were even acknowledged by those who govern to-day. But political remedies can never check oppression that is the offspring of political corruption.

## FUNERALS OF THE WEEK.

**JAMES DUNN.**—The funeral of Mr. James Dunn, a former well known hotel-keeper of Montreal, took place to Cote des Neiges Cemetery. Mr. Dunn had been an invalid for the past twenty-five years.—R.I.P.

**MISS DRUMMOND.**—The funeral of the late Miss Jorephte Elmire Drummond, daughter of the late Hon. Mr. Justice Drummond, and brother of Rev. Father Drummond, S.J., took place to St. Patrick's Church, where a solemn Requiem Mass was chanted, after which the remains were interred in the family plot in the Cote des Neiges cemetery.

Deceased had been a notable figure in educational and charitable institutions of this city, where she was highly esteemed for the enthusiastic interest she displayed in all their undertakings.—R.I.P.

**O'CONNELL.**—The funeral of Thomas Francis Leo, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O'Connell, which was private, was held this week. The highly esteemed couple will have the sympathy of their large circle of friends in their bereavement.

**MISS McCALL.**—Yesterday the funeral of Miss Jennie McCall, daughter of P. McCall, was held to St. Patrick's Church, where a solemn Requiem Mass was sung, after which the remains were taken to Cote des Neiges Cemetery for interment.—R.I.P.

**J. F. CORCORAN.**—On Sunday last the funeral of Mr. James P. Corcoran, son of Mr. B. F. Corcoran, well known in our circles, took place and was largely attended.—R.I.P.