

**THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION.**

We give a summary of the lecture by Mr. T. Mulvey, one of the rising young Catholic lawyers of Toronto, which was delivered before the St. Alphonsus Club of this city on the 20th ult.

Mr. Mulvey, on rising, was received with great applause. He said that the subject was too extensive to be dealt with in one evening. The Constitution has been acknowledged by some of the greatest thinkers in the domain of political science to be the masterpiece of human ingenuity. Every phrase of the Constitution is full of interest. He proposed dealing with the relation of the Executive to Congress, and the methods of the latter body. Although this was a very small portion of the main subject, yet it was interesting as throwing light upon many of the statements which the public see from day to day in the newspapers of the progress of the Wilson Bill, and other measures in which Canadians are particularly interested. The methods of others in comparison with our own would also prove interesting.

There are several important differences between the United States Constitution and ours. Montesquieu, whose opinions carried great weight, said: "There can be no liberty where the Legislature and Executive powers are united in the same body of magistrates, and if the power of judging be not separated from the executive and legislative powers." He advocated the carrying out of this principle. In the United States the people are sovereign; they alone can change it. The President, Congress and Supreme Court are mere creatures and servants of the Constitution, while within their limits they are untrammelled, yet beyond these limits they cannot go. In Great Britain Parliament is supreme. Public opinion, it is true, is the guide of Parliament; but, nevertheless, it is supreme, and has the inherent power to make all laws that it deems advisable. Article 2 constitutes the President the power within the State for carrying into effect the laws and enactments and appropriations of Congress. While the President is responsible to the people for the due enforcement of the laws, yet the greater part of his duties is assumed by the heads of the Executive departments. A strong President, in times of war, has more power than any other constitutional ruler in the world. Under the clause of the Constitution which directs that "he shall take care that the law is faithfully executed" he has almost absolute power. The Cabinet of the United States is different from that of Canada, inasmuch as the members are not elected by the people, but appointed by the President. Its members have no vote in Congress. The President alone is responsible for their acts. In England the Queen acts on the advice of the Ministry, consequently she has no such responsibility.

The House of Representatives was then dealt with by the speaker. One difference, he said, between the Speaker of the House of Representatives and of the House of Commons in Canada is that in the House of Representatives he is not to be unpartizan. In Canada, of course, the Speaker is supposed to be devoid of partizanship. Mr. Mulvey was strong in his opinion that the Speaker of the House of Representatives was in duty bound to give all advantage within the rules of the House to adherents of his party, but was not very clear in his explanation as to how, when both speakers are elected in the same way and have the same opportunities, this difference arose. The Speaker, he asserted, was virtually the party leader of the majority. In the House of Representatives there are no Treasury Benches. The Executive are not present in the

House. There are no Government bills; all are private bills, because there is no Government to introduce them. The work of the United States was done by committees. There are 55 standing committees in the House of Representatives. He explained the *modus operandi* of these various committees at some length. When a bill passes the House it is forwarded to the Senate, which is composed of two representatives from each State elected by the Legislatures of the States. The sages of the Senate pride themselves on the dignity of their proceedings in comparison with the turbulence of the House.

The speaker shortly referred to the veto power held by the President, and showed, so far as figures could prove, that the Presidents of today exercised their prerogative much more frequently than did "the father of his country," when he guided the helm of State.

**Reply by Father Whelan.**

To the Editor of the Catholic Register.

Sir—In a letter on the Ballot memorial in your last issue, our respected townsman, Mr. M. J. Gorman, makes the following statement:

"Father Whelan, whom you quote, now admits, in the light of information which he has since obtained, that we claimed only 'to speak for ourselves.'"

As I am quite able to speak for myself, I most decidedly object to another person undertaking to speak for me. Should such additional "light" be thrown upon the memorial as to lead me to change or modify the views which I have expressed on that subject, I shall be prepared to redefine my position in a direct and public manner. But, as a matter of fact, nothing has been adduced since I spoke on the subject which would justify me in qualifying the published statement of my views. Mr. Gorman's assertion is therefore altogether gratuitous. I have not made any such assertion as that which he reports me to have made; nor have I said anything to anybody which could possibly be construed to be tantamount to such an admission. On the contrary, the "light" which has been shed on the question has only made it clearer to my mind.

1. That the memorialists did pretend to express the views of the Catholics of Ottawa;
2. That the memorial is a clumsily concocted document reflecting no credit on its authors;
3. That it manifests lamentable ignorance on their part of the regulations of the education department, and of the manner in which the same have been enforced;
4. That the puillanious counsels tendered by them to the episcopate prove them to be a "panic-stricken" lot;
5. That the memorial implies, if it does not explicitly set forth, that its originators were moved by political motives;
6. That it unjustly reflects on the standing and ability of the present school trustees and their predecessors who were elected by an open vote.

I claim that the document if published will sustain these allegations. If its subscribers feel that I have mis-stated its import, let them give it to the press. It can be no longer regarded as secret or "confidential." The *Toronto Globe* and other papers have referred to it as evincing a desire on the part of Catholics for the ballot.

I much mistake the spirit and temper of the Catholics of Ottawa, if, on the memorial being published in full, they tamely acquiesce in the misrepresentations of their views and wishes by a few interested politicians and an utterly discredited newspaper hack.

M. J. WHELAN.

Ottawa, March 2, 1894.

**St. Agnes Beneficial Society.**

The Irish Catholic Benevolent Association of Canada has recently, with the approbation of His Grace the Archbishop, organized a ladies' branch, to be known as the St. Agnes Beneficial Society. The Society like other branches of the Association, pays sick and funeral benefits and furnishes medical attendance to its members when required. The dues are 30 cents per month. The charter remains open for the month of March. All Catholic ladies between the ages of fifteen and forty-five years are eligible for membership. Any further information regarding the Society may be obtained from the following officers who have been elected for the ensuing year: President, Miss Kate Langford, 245 Broadview ave.; Secretary, Mrs. Greor, 3 Widmer st.; Miss Mary Thompson, Fin. Sec., 160 William st.; Miss Etta Tighe, Treasurer, 9 Clarence sq.

The Duc d'O leans takes himself seriously and is treated as a royal personage by his servants at his country home in England. Even his close friends yield a certain deference that pleasantly exhilarates him.

**St. Helen's.**

The Forty Hours devotion was opened on last Sunday in St. Helen's Church in the presence of an immense congregation. The sitting accommodation was utterly inadequate for the multitude which thronged the sacred edifice. Solemn High Mass (coram pontifice) was celebrated by the Rev. Father Dumouchel of St. Michael's College, assisted by Rev. Father Kelly as deacon and Rev. Mr. McDonagh as sub-deacon. His Grace the Archbishop preached a powerful and instructive sermon on the Blessed Eucharist, the life of the individual Christian, as well as of the Church.

His Grace made an appeal to all present to show their homage and love to our Divine Lord during the Forty Hours, and, if possible, to partake of the sacraments. At the evening service Father Dumouchel preached an eloquent sermon on the Cross, the necessity of bearing it, how it becomes to the faithful Christian a source of joy, of triumph and of glory. The confessions also have been thronged since Sunday, and many pious souls were ever present adoring our Divine Lord visible on the altar. On Monday evening Rev. Dr. Tracey of St. Mary's parish preached on the abiding presence of the Divinity with mankind, as most perfectly illustrated in the Catholic Church by the Divine Presence in the Blessed Eucharist.

The Very Rev. Dean Cassidy and his assistant Father Carberry have been assisted in the hearing of confessions by Rev. Fathers Kelly, Lynch, Traylag of Dixie, and Tracey. The Forty Hours' Devotion has been in St. Helen's as in the other city parishes a monument of the Catholic faith and piety of the members of our Holy Church in this city.

**C. N. B. A. in St. Catharines.**

On Thursday evening March 1st, Branch No. 10, held their regular meeting in the neat and well kept Hall on St. Paul Street. A representative of the REGISTER had the pleasure of attending, and received a very fraternal greeting from President M. J. McCarron and the other officers and members present. Branch No. 10 has about eighty members on the roll, with good prospects of increasing, and we feel sure that the affairs of the Branch are well looked after by the officers elected, whose names appear below. Char., T. Durnan; Pres. M. J. McCarron; 1st Vice., E. Hartnett; 2nd Vice., A. R. Cudden; Treasurer, W. J. Flynn; Fin. Sec., J. M. Butler; Rec. Sec., M. J. Sullivan; Assistant Rec. Sec., J. E. McCarthy; Marshall, R. Kearns; Guard, Wm. Neabit; Rep. to Grand Council, J. M. Butler; Alt., W. J. Flynn; C. N. M., Agt. C. R. Branch 139.

We wish to tender our thanks to Rev. Dean Harris for his kind reference to the CATHOLIC REGISTER at the 8 o'clock Mass in St. Catharines Church on Sunday the 4th inst. In a few well chosen remarks he referred to the efforts that are being made to bring Catholic Journalism to the front, and explained to the congregation the necessity of supporting the Catholic Press, especially at the present time, where such gross misrepresentations and lies are being freely circulated against the Catholic faith; and expressed his surprise that people of avowed intelligence readily accept the most absurd accusations as truth. We hope his words will be heeded and that our Catholic people will consider the important truth that upon them individually, depends the solution of the question of whether or not the Catholic Press shall succeed.

**Barrie.**

Beautifully situated on the North West Side of Kempenfeldt Bay, and surrounded by some of the finest scenery in Ontario, lies Barrie, the County town of Simcoe. It is conceded by many of being one of the prettiest towns of Northern Ontario.

After securing hotel accommodation, I called on his Reverence, Dean Egan, and was kindly received by the worthy pastor. In canvassing the town I find the people both sociable and generous, in offering their assistance. The business of the town is largely sustained by the farming community, of which there is a large range.

In summer, Barrie is considered a favorite resort for camping and fishing parties, of which there are not a few, who enjoy the calm breezes of the Bay and picturesque scenery along its banks.

On Sunday last Very Rev. Dean Egan, after making the customary announcements for the week, concluded by introducing Mr. Kernahan, of THE CATHOLIC REGISTER, to the congregation. He assured the people of his flock that during this nineteenth century, when the warfare against God, against the Church, in fact against everything that is good and holy—there could be nothing better than a good sound, substantial Catholic paper; and as the price is within the reach of all, he considered it a duty on the part of parents to provide for the spiritual welfare of their children. In fact, he did not consider a house Catholic, where two dailies were taken, and Catholic literature abandoned for the sake of supporting these papers,

he concluded by a short sermon on the Gospel.

**B. C. I. Lit. Society.**

The Barrie Collegiate Institute Lit. Society held their monthly entertainment in the Assembly Room of the Institute on last Thursday evening. Very Rev. Dean Egan opened the entertainment by a short address on the merits of the Society, and was followed by a well rendered programme, viz: Selection, the Glee Club; Piano Solo, Miss Moran; Reading, Miss Green; Quartette, Messrs. Henry, Johnson, McKee and Duff; Vocal Solo, Miss Julia Carpenter; Piano Solo, Miss McKee; Vocal Solo, Miss L. Ryan; Selection, Juvenile Orchestra; Comedy by the B. C. I. Comedy Club. Some three hundred were present, and the audience was well satisfied with the evening's entertainment.

**Obituary.**

Every year claims its dead, and in 1894 already many deaths have had to be recorded. A prominent Catholic, a good, loyal citizen and a versatile wit passed away recently in Lindsay in the person of Mr. Samuel Walker. His life was an illustration of what careful, hard work can do towards raising one up into comfortable circumstances. Years ago he started a poor, uneducated lad and ended up by being able to spend his last days in well earned rest, and to leave to his family a very ample competence. Above all, the deceased was a Catholic, and what was more, a good Catholic. In a quiet way he won for himself some local notoriety, and perhaps was as well known and respected a citizen as the County of Victoria contained. He was a conspicuous figure, and many will miss him. His funeral was largely attended, and at the High Mass celebrated by Vicar General Laurent many Protestants joined with his own co-religionists in praying for the deceased's eternal welfare. —R.I.P.

**C. O. F.**

The smoking concert held by St. Joseph's Court on the 22nd February was most successful in advancing the interests of the Order. The address given by Bro. J. M. Quinn was replete with information and detailed all the necessary information to those seeking membership. Addresses were also given by Bros. Lee and Degrouchy, who spoke in behalf of the C. O. F. and the good work it was doing. The Rev. Chaplain of the Branch Father Bergin complimented the members on their success and offered many valuable suggestions on how to propagate and make known the benefits derived from becoming members of the C. O. F. Among the visitors who contributed to the musical part of the programme mention must be made of W. Wright, jr., who possesses a beautiful voice. His comic songs were well rendered. Mr. W. Wright, sr., sustained his well known reputation by reciting the "Battle of Alma" in capital style. As a result of this undertaking the Court has received four new applications for membership. —FORESTER.

**Death of a Dakota Priest.**

Rev. J. S. P. Cassidy, D.D., died in St. Joseph's hospital, St. Paul, on the 9th of February after a lingering illness. For two years Father Cassidy was the pastor of the Catholic Church of Michigan City, Dakota, and "was noted by all as exceedingly kind hearted and generous to a fault giving in charity frequently when he could ill afford to do so. He was a man of fine education and a very forcible and eloquent speaker. The deceased was born in Galway, Ireland, but came to this country when quite young. He was about 47 years of age at the time of his death." Rev. Dr. Cassidy was two years in the Toronto diocese, being chaplain at the House of Providence for part of that time. *Requiescat in pace.*

**Sacred Heart Church.**

The musical vespers in this church last Sunday were a great success, the choir under Mrs. McKinnon's able direction did well. Mrs. Pelletier sang an "Ave Maria" most touchingly, Mrs. Blagdon sang also a solo in the "Tantum Ergo." Rev. Father McBrady preached a most eloquent sermon in French on "Labour."

**Fancy Fair.**

The Young Ladies Sodality of St. Helen's church will hold a Grand Fancy Fair on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Easter Week from 2 to 10 o'clock. Concert every evening. All are invited to attend. Admission 10 cents (evening only). Further particulars later on.

**Young Women.**

Who have overtaxed their strength and men of mature years who have drawn too heavily on the resources of youth, and persons whose occupations strain their mental powers, or of business cares and of a sedentary life, will find a sure restorative in the Almoxia Wine for which J. D. Oliver & Co., 16 King street west, Toronto, are the sole agents for Canada. Sold by all druggists.