



## 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.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

**IMMORAL LITERATURE** — Like his every movement for the good both temporal and spiritual of the community, the action of His Grace Archbishop Brushet, on the occasion of his official visit, last week, to the newly-elected Mayor of Montreal, has provoked the most favorable comment on all sides. Truly he is the good pastor, most watchful over his flock, and ever careful of each one within the fold. His Grace drew attention to the deplorable fact that bad literature has found its way into the city, and that the civic and religious authorities should combine to drive out that hydra of moral corruption from our midst. As a practical result of His Grace's representations, a bill will be introduced during the coming session of the Legislature dealing with this matter in the sense indicated by the Archbishop.

It may not be known to any of our readers, and we hope that it is not, that in certain bookstores—generally small newsdealers—of this city are to be found some of the most debasing and corrupt volumes that have ever been penned. These are the germs of a moral plague that is worse than any physical plague that ever came from the heart of Asia. And yet these books are publicly exposed for sale, and are so advertised that the general public is not aware of all the abominations hidden under apparently indifferent titles. Some time ago the writer had occasion to go down town on an early morning car. Just in front of him sat a young girl of about seventeen. She was reading a book, that had the appearance of a paper-covered novel. She took great precautions to hide the cover, and she glanced timidly around her as if afraid that any one should notice what she was reading. The writer would never have paid any attention to her, or her book, had it not been for her evident anxiety to hide even the head-lines of the pages. His curiosity being thus awakened, before Craig street was reached he got an opportunity of seeing the cover. It was only a glance, but that glance revealed the name of the author. That was enough. That young girl was on her way to work in some departmental store, or in some such like place of employment, and she was utilizing the few moments of spare time that she had in saturating her soul with the most infernal poison that the brain of perverted man ever distilled. It was quite easy to see the end. Unless by some veritable miracle, that young girl is doomed. Bad companions are evil, but such a book as that is a million times worse.

Where did she get that work? She got it here in Montreal. We could almost tell you the store, the street, the number. It is this class of literature that His Grace aims at, and in order to wipe it out, he desires that the iron hand of the law should fall upon the dealers who import and retail such infamous literature. It is not necessary that we should dictate a sermon upon the evil effects of immoral literature. It affects all sections of the community. None there are who can afford to tamper with it. It is a matter that concerns every honest citizen—Catholic and Protestant, Jew and Gentile—for all are bound to respect the common moral law and to protect their children against a poison that is sure to bring them moral death—a life of corruption in this world and one of damnation in the next.

**BRITISH POLITICS** — The situa-

tion in Great Britain to-day is not unlike that experienced in Canada during the early part of this winter: the question is, "will there, or will there not be a dissolution of Parliament?" Some pretend that before two months the present Parliament will be dissolved, to be followed by general elections almost at once. Others, equally important persons, believe that Mr. Balfour will hang on as long as he has a comfortable working majority. Although on a recent vote of want of confidence the Government had only fifty-one of a majority, and despite the fact that some recent bye-elections have gone against the administration, still there would seem to be a majority of about one hundred and twenty in the House. On a small issue last week the Government had only fourteen, and a turn over of only eight votes would have placed in a minority. But that does not affect the grand total of the representation in the House to-day. It must also be remembered that in the vote on Mr. Morley's amendment, quite a large number of the Government's normal supporters voted against it.

It was in 1900 that the present administration was returned, and it has still two years, or rather three years, of legal tenure of office. But there are accidents and sudden changes that may arise and which must be counted with. If you take the total vote cast for all the opposition candidates at the bye-elections, held during the past twelve months, with the total cast for the Ministerialists, we find the former much in excess of the latter. The reverse was the case in 1900. Should corresponding gains be made by the Liberals in all the constituencies, they might secure a majority of one hundred and fifty in the next Parliament. But in that event, in order to secure the stability of their Government, the co-operation of the Irish Nationalists would be necessary. That co-operation could only be secured by the fulfilment of their former promise to give Ireland Home Rule.

Thus, no matter how matters turn, whether there is a dissolution or not; whether, in case of a dissolution, the Conservatives or the Liberals come back to power; whether or not their policies are modified; the Irish party, provided it remains united, has the balance of power in its hands. This is the one great hope of Redmond and his compact following. The securing of a Home Rule measure, be it from Whig or Tory, must be the price of the support that either party needs in order to have a working majority. The granting of that measure will never be an act of graceful acknowledgment of a right, it will be a concession in face of a political necessity. But we do not think that the Irish people will lose much sleep over the nature of the spirit behind such legislation, as long as the principle is acknowledged and the legislation is granted. As the weeks go past the crisis seems to grow more acute.

### PERSONAL.

Mr. James McMahon, well known in the ranks of our young Irish Catholics, has taken up the business of an insurance agent. He is associated with the Law, Union and Crown Insurance Company.

Mr. McMahon is active, reliable and energetic and deserves to succeed in his new field of endeavor.

## Ecclesiastical Notes.

**OBITUARY**—During the month that has just elapsed quite a number of religious have gone to their eternal reward, and, as is customary, "La Semaine Religieuse" asks the faithful to offer up prayers for the repose of their souls. Amongst other pious and noble souls that have gone to their reward are mentioned:

Sister Apaline, (Julia Laurion), of the Sisters of Providence, who died in Montreal; Sister Paul Suzuki (Melanie Beaudry), of the Sisters of the Holy Name, who died at Hochelaga; Sister Marie de la Visitation, (Eulalia Ladouceur), of the Sisters of Ste. Anne, who died at Lachine; Sister Marie-Ethelbert, (Mary McDonald), of the Sisters of Ste. Anne, who died at Victoria, B.C.; Sister Josephine Dumouchel, of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, who died in Montreal; Mother Rachel Turgeon, of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who died at Sault-au-Recollet; Sister Marie Celina Boucher, surnamed Manseau, of the Congregation of Notre Dame, who died in Montreal; Sister Sainte Honorate, (Marie-Isabelle Roy), of the Congregation of Notre Dame, who died in Montreal; Sister Sainte Marie des Neiges, (Marie Zelia Dupere), of the Congregation of Notre Dame, who died in Montreal; Sister Marie de la Croix, (Delonia Fradette), of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, who died in Montreal;

The list is quite a lengthy one, and while we know how the lives of sacrifice led by these good religious, bespeak other lives of happiness hereafter, still do they need our prayers in their pilgrimage to God, beyond the grave.

**CONFIRMATIONS** —We translate from "La Semaine Religieuse" the Confirmation itinerary of His Grace the Archbishop for the coming spring months. It will be well for all those interested to note well the dates and the hours.

- April 7—Thursday, 7.30 a.m.—Villa Marie Convent.
- 7—Thursday, 5 p.m., Grey Nunnery, Guy street.
- 17—Sunday, 7 a.m., Academy of St. Louis de Gonzague.
- Sunday, 9.30 a.m., Good Shepherds.
- Sunday, 2.30 p.m., Mount St. Louis.
- Sunday, 7.30 p.m., St. Leon of Westmount.
- 19—Tuesday, 7.30 a.m.—Pensionnat Saint Basile.
- 20—Wednesday, 7.30 a.m., St. Laurent Convent.
- Wednesday, 11 a.m., College of N.D. des Neiges.
- 21—Thursday, 3 p.m. Sacred Heart Academy
- 22—Friday, 7.30 p.m., Lachine Convent.
- 24—Sunday, 2.30 p.m., St. Elizabeth.
- Sunday, 4 p.m., St. Henri.
- Sunday, 7.30 p.m., St. Joseph.
- 25—Monday, 3 p.m., N. D. des Sept Douleurs.
- Monday, 3 p.m., Con. of St. Paul.
- 26—Tuesday, 3 p.m., St. Valier.
- Tuesday, 4.30 p.m., St. Michel.
- Tuesday, 7.10 p.m., St. Jean-Baptiste.
- 27—Wednesday, 3 p.m., St. Jacques.
- Wednesday, 5 p.m., Reformatory.
- Wednesday, 7.30 p.m., St. Patrick's.
- 28—Thursday, 4 p.m., St. Cugonde.
- Thursday, 7.30 p.m., St. Anthony's.
- 29—Friday, 3 p.m., St. John of the Cross.
- Friday, 4.30 p.m., N. D. du Saint Rosarie.
- Friday, 7.10 p.m., St. Edward.
- 30—Saturday, 8.30 a.m., Holy Name of Jesus.
- Saturday, 11 a.m., Longueuil.

- May 1—Sunday, 8 a.m., Cathedral.
- Sunday, 2.30 p.m., St. Denis.
- Sunday, 4.30 p.m., Infant Jesus.

- May 2—Monday, 3 p.m., St. Gabriel.
- Monday, 4 p.m., St. Charles.
- Monday, 7.30 p.m., St. Anne's.
- 3—Tuesday, 7.30 a.m., Hochelaga Convent.
- Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., St. Bridget's.
- Tuesday, 4.30 p.m., O. L. of Good Counsel.
- 4—Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., St. Eusebe.
- Wednesday, 4.30 p.m., The Nativity.
- Wednesday, 7.30 p.m., St. Vincent de Paul.
- 5—Thursday, 7.30 a.m., St. Anthony's Academy.
- Thursday, 4 p.m., Sacred Heart.
- Thursday, 7.30 p.m., St. Peter's.
- 6—Friday, 7.20 a.m., Mount St. Mary.
- Friday, 4 p.m., Notre Dame.
- Friday, 7.30 p.m., Ste. Helene.
- 7—Saturday, 2.30 p.m., Deaf Mutes.
- Saturday, 4 p.m., St. Louis de France.
- Saturday, 7.30 p.m., St. Gregoire le Thaumaturge.
- 8—Sunday, 2.30 p.m., N. D. de Grace.
- Sunday, 4.30 p.m., N. D. des Neiges.

## Ireland's Festival In Montreal.

**ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY**—This organization has appointed a committee to make arrangements for the celebration of the national festival. In the evening a banquet will be held in the Windsor Hotel, when the themes of the orators of the evening will be Ireland and Canada. Reports indicate that the attendance at the banquet will be a large one.

**ST. ANN'S PARISH**—The St. Ann's Young Men's Society will hold their celebration in the parish hall on Ottawa street. The dramatic section will stage the patriotic drama of "O'Rourke's Triumph." Features incidental to the performance will be Irish music, vocal and instrumental, rendered under the able direction of Prof. P. J. Shea.

**ST. PATRICK'S PARISH**—The old parish will commemorate the day by holding two performances, afternoon and evening, in the Windsor Hall. Striking scenes in the history of Ireland will be reproduced by the best talent in the parish. The musical arrangements are under the direction of Prof. J. A. Fowler. Rev. Dr. Luke Callaghan, to whom the pastor has entrusted the management of the details of the celebration, is sparing no effort to make it a grand success.

**ST. MARY'S PARISH**—This parish will hold an entertainment in the evening. Arrangements are now in progress.

**ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH**—The young people of the parish will hold their first annual celebration this year.

### INCOME OF CLERGY.

A Roman paper states that a circular has been sent from the Vicariate to all the priests in Rome requiring them to state their age, residence, native diocese, occupation and income. It is reported that the Pope has decided that no priest's revenue is to exceed £240 annually, and that these provisions are but the prelude to a most important announcement which will affect the clergy of the whole world.—Liverpool Catholic Times.

## The War

At the beginning of the week the reports from Port Arthur stated: Gen. Stoessel, commander of the garrison here, has issued a general order directing the attention of the troops and inhabitants to the fact that the Japanese intend to land and seize the fortress. The general says that the Japanese consider the seizure of Port Arthur to be a question of national honor, and from their obstinate attacks and bombardments of the forts and bays he can only conclude that the Japanese will make every effort to capture the fortress, falling which they will destroy the railroad and withdraw. "The enemy, however," proceeds the general order, "is mistaken. Our troops know, and the inhabitants are herewith informed by me that we will not yield. We must fight to the finish, as I, the commandant, will never give an order to surrender. I bring this to the notice of those less daring, and call on all to become convinced of the necessity of fighting to the death. Those who leave without fighting will not save themselves. There is no way out. On three sides there is the sea, and on the fourth will be the enemy. There is no means of escape except by fighting." Notwithstanding the heavy gale which is blowing, the lights of Japanese scouting vessels were visible in the offing during the night.

Liauyang, Manchuria, February 29 —Foreigners living at Yingkow say that the Japanese fleet has received orders to attack and capture Port Arthur on March 1 at all costs.

Gen. Mishchenko, with a detachment of mounted Cossacks, has reached Kasanja, Korea, and is expected to arrive at Ichio Yang to-day. His men and horses are in good condition and he is well supplied with provisions. The Korean officials are fleeing from the places traversed and are informing the Japanese of the approach of the Russians. The Cossacks have seized the telegraph line in Northern Korea.

A Japanese Major, Togo Tazuro, and five men, who were captured by Cossacks at Wiju, have been brought to Liauyang.

The concentration of Chinese troops westward of Mukden, in the district of Gubantsa, is not relished by the Russians. War material is being brought up, and the militia posts have been strengthened. It is doubted whether the attitude of the population can be relied upon. The people at several points refuse to sell produce to the Russians.

Snowstorms are raging here and the frost is intense. The railroad is working perfectly, and troops are arriving uninterruptedly. Their health and spirits are excellent.

Chefoo, Feb. 20—The Twentieth Japanese Infantry, occupying Ping Yang, midway between Seoul and the Yalu River, on Sunday, met a body of Russian cavalry scouts to the north of Ping Yang and drove them back.

It is estimated that 60,000 Japanese troops have landed at Chemulpo. The transports are now not escorted by war vessels.

The Japanese sailors who manned the merchant vessels which were sunk at Port Arthur, on landing here shaved their heads as a mark of the disgrace they felt at the failure of the project. The crew of the Jinsen Maru wrote their names on the foremost flag, which remained above water when the ship went down.

A despatch from New Chwang, published in the Gazette on Friday, in referring to the plans of Russians to meet the enemy, says:

The Russo-Chinese Bank is closing preparatory to removing to Mukden. Women and children are preparing to leave here in anticipation of the arrival of the Japanese fleet, which is expected when the river opens, probably a fortnight hence.

The United States gunboat Helena and the British cruiser Espiegle are making preparations to leave the drydocks in a week's time. The main mast of the Russian gun-

boat Sivautch has been cut off; this would indicate that she is being dismantled, but otherwise she would appear to be clearing for action.

On account of the impossibility of defending the coast of New Chwang until such time as a thaw permits the construction of entrenchments and forts, the Russians have prepared to retire up the main railroad line. There are practically no defences here, and although the shifting and reshifting of troops and artillery to the small forts at the mouth of the Liao river has an appearance of an intention to defend New Chwang, the military authorities depend upon an island engagement to put a stop to the Japanese advance.

As far as is yet known, the only plans decided upon are, first, that General Kuropatkin's headquarters are to be at Mukden; Viceroy Alexieff proposes to remain at Mukden indefinitely, as that city is the centre of the Chinese administration, and has a vice-royal bureau; second, that the plain west of Tashihschiao, which is almost impossible to defend, will be held if possible on account of the railway connecting with Port Arthur; thirdly, Hai-Ching and Liao-Yang are the extreme limits to which troops will be withdrawn, on account of the exposure of the railroad at these points.

That the Japanese will arrive before a thaw permits the construction of defences is thought here to be practically certain. It would appear also that the authorities expect Port Arthur to be besieged.

Sir Robert Hart, director of Chinese Imperial maritime customs, after sounding Russian opinion in the matter, has ordered the Chinese customs lightship and the channel buoy to be placed at the river mouth as usual. This step, however, has no effect upon the neutralization of New-Chwang.

St. Petersburg, March 3.—Since the disappearance of the Japanese fleet from before Port Arthur the Russians have been awaiting anxiously for the next move of the Japanese on sea. There is an inclination here to believe that the Japanese have been discouraged by the failure of their attacks, and perhaps by losses they have not announced.

It is evident even from the meagre information regarding the Russian dispositions in Northern Korea that the plan for checking the Japanese land advance is perfected, and that heavy reserves are being brought up to the Yalu river.

Every energy of the authorities is now directed to prevent a blockade on the Siberian railroad. Twenty new sidings, each of 2000 feet, are being erected. Owing to the heavy movement of rolling stock, carrying reinforcements, war munitions and commissary stores eastward, there is great danger that in bringing back the empty cars the whole line may be stopped. With the sidings now building the authorities hope to be able to keep the line clear, and to send eleven trains in each direction daily.

Mail advices from Siberia say that the army reserve men from the rural districts seem to be much more anxious to go to the front than the townsmen. Many of the latter are presenting physicians' certificates of illness.

The Government bank balance of March 1 showed a decrease of only \$4,000,000. The gold in hand amounted to \$456,000,000.

## THE PROFESSOR'S DILEMMA.

Chicago professorships pay well, but they are not entirely beds of roses. Bemis had to go, and he always insisted that it was on account of his attacks on corporations, the sources of Rockefeller's greatness. Triggs will have to go in July, and he is the man who declared Rockefeller to be greater than Shakespeare. What is the professor to do if the men who flatter the founder and those who attack his business are in equal danger? If these removals shall suggest to the members of the faculty the propriety of confining themselves to their duties and mixing common sense with their learning, they will have a good effect on the University.—Philadelphia Record.