



BLESSING AN ABBOT.

AN UNUSUAL CEREMONY AT NOTRE DAME.

Rev. Father Dom. Marie Antoine, First Abbot of Oka, Receives the Installation of Office.

The solemn blessing of the first abbot of the Trappist monastery at Oka, which has just been raised to the dignity of an abbey, took place in the church of Notre Dame last Wednesday morning.

ABBOTS ARE NOT NUMEROUS.

The ceremony is also one of rare occurrence, abbots being very limited in number, there being but one other in all Canada; that at Tracadie.

The new abbot, Dom Marie Antoine, was born in France, in 1852. He studied theology at Angers and was ordained a priest in 1877.

The officiating bishop, on Wednesday last, was Archbishop Fabre, assisted by the mitred abbots Dom Jean Marie, of Bellefontaine, France, and Dom Marie Dominique, of Tracadie, N.B.

THE CEREMONY BEGAN

by the abbot-elect handing to the Archbishop the apostolic letters appointing him, which were read aloud by an assistant priest. Then the formal interrogatories as to the doctrines which the elect holds were made in the terms of the ritual.

The imposition of hands on the head of the elect then took place, after which the Archbishop handed him the rules of his order. The blessing of the wooden crozier and the ring followed, and the Archbishop placed the ring on the middle finger of the abbot's right hand.

CARRIED BY TRAPPIST MONKS,

whose long white robes and shaven heads made a striking contrast with the rich ornaments of the officiating clergy. When communion time arrived the bishop gave communion to the abbot, who also took a sip from the chalice.

At the end of the mass, the bishop blessed the mitre, which he placed on the head of the abbot, and then blessed the gloves, which he placed on his hands. After the bishop escorted the new abbot to his own seat in front of the altar, and the choristers commenced to sing the Te Deum.

THE SERMON.

Bishop Emard, of Valleyfield, delivered the sermon, which was a splendid oration. He took for his text the words from St. Matthew, "And everyone that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands for my name's sake shall receive an hundred fold, and shall

inherit everlasting life." He remarked that there exists a special hierarchy established by Christ, who calls certain men to a higher degree of perfection by secluding them from the cares of the world, which constitutes monastic life. This hierarchy was truly constituted by Christ himself when, in reply to the young man of the Gospel asking what more he had to do after following the precepts of the law, he told him that, to acquire greater perfection, he must then sell all that he had, give the proceeds to the poor and follow Him.

A GRAND PILGRIMAGE.

Five Important Cures at the Shrine of Ste. Anne de Beaupre—An Account of the Journey.

As announced, and in strict accordance with the programme, the grand pilgrimage, under the direction of Rev. Father Strubbe, C.S.J., of St. Ann's parish, left for the shrine of Ste. Anne on Friday, the first of July.

At 6.30 on Friday morning, mass was said in the Bonsecours Church, after which, to the strains of the "Ave Maria Stella" sung by the whole assembly, the pilgrims marched down to the wharf, where the steamer lay in waiting.

The English sermons, throughout the three days, were preached by the Rev. Director Father Strubbe, and the French sermons by the Rev. Father Savard, the Prior of the Trappist Monastery of Gethesmann, Kentucky, delivered an eloquent sermon on the boat.

On Saturday morning there was Mass and then Holy Communion at six o'clock. Then it was that five persons were relieved, suddenly, of their long sufferings and infirmities. At the High Mass, at 9 a.m., there was a solemn procession, in which were carried the relics of Ste. Anne. It was grand, imposing, and the fervor was unbounded as the joyous enthusiasm. In the afternoon, vespers, sermon and benediction took place; also the blessing of articles of devotion.

At 3.30 p.m. Saturday the happy band bid farewell to the far-famed shrine, and the vessel turned her prow towards Quebec. At 5.30 p.m. they reached the city of the old historic rock; landed, wended their way up Mountain Hill, down Fabrique street, along Palace, and into St. Patrick's church. There, at half-past seven, the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given, and hymns of joy and thanksgiving were heartily chanted.

On Sunday morning the steambot touched at Three Rivers; the pilgrims landed, and in the quaint cathedral of the trifluvian city, they heard mass at 6.30 o'clock. At ten they left Three Rivers and arrived in Montreal at 5 p.m. From the place of landing, near the Sommer Park, to the other end of the city, to the parish Church of St. Ann's three hundred happy and overjoyed pilgrims marched, singing the "Ave Maria Stella," and bearing the shrine of St. Ann, and the crutches of those whose "faith had made them whole."

Without exaggeration, Father Strubbe's pilgrimage was the most complete, all embracing, successful and encouraging one that ever went from St. Ann's of Montreal to Ste. Anne de Beaupre.

RELIGIOUS NEWS ITEMS.

According to the annals of the mission, the number of Catholics in the United States is 9,918,010.

In an interview at London, on the 10th, Archbishop Vaughan expressed the belief that England would soon become Catholic.

An independent order of priests for the evangelization of Negroes in the United States is to be formed by the Rev. John R. Slattery, of Baltimore.

The chapter for the election of the general of the Jesuits will be held in September in Rome, in the headquarters of the order.

As a result of the recent census of the "J. G. White" tract at Lacrosse, Wis., a Catholic Tract Society with 150 members has been organized.

The mayors of Portland and Salem, Oregon, have issued appeals for help to build the new cathedral at Portland.

Since the Italian Government took possession of Rome twenty-five years ago, many churches have been converted to secular purposes.

Father Tetreau, of St. Jean de Baptiste Church, New York, will exhibit at the World's fair, which will excel anything else kind ever displayed upon American soil.

When the 336 public schools in Paris directed by religious were suppressed, they were replaced by 336 schools which have since been provided by the private contributions of Catholics now contain 75,000 pupils.

Seven hundred persons were confirmed in one afternoon by the Most Rev. Archbishop Perron, at the shrine of Ste. Anne in Chicago. This was certainly a most edifying and impressive scene.

The Holy Father has recently admitted to audience Mgr. Leopoldo Frenchi, Bishop of Legnano, and Mgr. Antonio Troia, Bishop of Fermo, and the Rev. Father Hildebrand de Hempling, Abbot of the Benedictines of Marciennes.

The parish priest of Songavazzo, near Bergamo, Father Marini, has been elected to take part in the Italian elections. The amount has been cheerfully subscribed by a group of generous Catholics.

The Association for the P. motion of Rest on Sunday at the Hague has demanded by circular of the heads of households in that city if they wished for fresh bread on the Lord's Day. Thirteen thousand families have answered in the negative. As a consequence, the bakers will shut up shop on Sundays.

On the proposition of the Archbishop of Rouen, His Holiness has conferred the Cross of Chevalier of the Order of St. Gregory on the Great M. Romani, advocate of the ancient city, and on M. Veyron, the zealous president of the Society of "Christian Emulation."

The Sacred Congregation of Rites has terminated the revision of the writings of the venerable Mother Madeleine de St. Clare, formerly superior of the Visitation at Troyes. It recognizes that there is nothing in them that can offer opposition to the regular course of the official process of beatification.

Mgr. Helele, Bishop of Rotterdam, has authorized the publication of a memoir by Einsmann, one of his Canons, on the religious dispute which is agitating Rotterdam at the moment. This memoir clearly establishes that the Souban Catholics have the right and the duty to reclaim that religious liberty which is openly violated by the proscription of the religious orders.

The death is announced of Baron de Habert, a convert from Judaism to Catholicity as well as his wife, Madlle Beer, niece to the celebrated composer, Meyerbeer. He had been converted in recompense for his efforts, in conjunction with M. Puyser-Quartier, to make the payments at Frankfurt of the war ransom which brought about the liberation of the territory. He obtained his naturalization as a French citizen at the same epoch. M. P.

"I, in my own person, avers Mr. Pinkerton, M. P., a Protestant from the North of Ireland, who was returned to Parliament by the Catholic capital of Connaught, an a conclusive answer to Lord Salisbury's recent attack on the rights of the people of the West and South of Ireland."

The Sisters of St. Francis are doing heroic work among the lepers of Molokai. They have the cure of the women and children of that island, and are a source of joy to the people of the West and South of Ireland.

A recent dispatch informs us that Mgr. Rev. Dr. Vaughan, the new archbishop of Westminster, will shortly administer the sacrament of confirmation to a number of distinguished converts from Protestantism. Among the names are those of Lady Somers, the Baroness Sherburne, Lady Edith Howe and Mrs. Labouchere.

Partners in the butchers' business are a joint concern. Why, gentle reader, do we always find U in trouble?

A SAD ACCIDENT.

DEATH CLAIMS EIGHT VICTIMS.

Lat of the Drowned—An Account of the Heartrending Scenes. Point St. Charles in Mourning.

At 3.15 on Saturday seventeen young men started from the Grand Trunk Boat house in the war canoe Minnie Wa-Wa and at 6.25 they were all struggling in the river opposite to St. Lambert's. Eleven were saved and six were drowned.

Point St. Charles is a city of mourning. Within the memory of the old residents no such sorrow has ever overtaken the railway centre of Montreal than that which sent the shadow of death over the entire neighborhood on Saturday night.

THE DROWNED.

PERCY MAIDEN. THOMAS O'BRIEN. JOHN MULLIGAN. EDWIN SLEEK. HOWARD R. HANSON. ERNEST LEE.

THE SAVED.

W. Y. REID. GEO. SURGEON. ROBERT STEELE. PERCY CUSHING. WM. MELVILLE. A. DONALDSON. C. CRITCHLOW. GEO. SLEEP. C. POWELL. D. CANDLISH.

Six young men in the very zenith of their manhood, became victims to the treacherous yet beautiful St. Lawrence. Eleven young men, the companions of the dead, are alive to tell the story and few beyond these can vouch for the facts. There were no signals of distress hoisted, no shouts for assistance; only a few feeble cries as the waters swallowed up their victims, eleven helpless forms dragged ashore at different points and then all was over. Six souls had left the earth without a moment's warning. The news spread throughout the entire city as only bad news can and the homes of the Point were scenes of sorrow almost within the hour.

THE ACCIDENT.

Seventeen young men, mostly members of the Grand Trunk Boating Club, left the boat house at 3.15 on Saturday afternoon in the war canoe Minnie-Wa-Wa. Before leaving they had their pictures taken in a group by the club photographer, Mr. W. Sleep, and a capital picture was taken. The craft holds twenty-four people, so that with seventeen it was far from crowded. A swift paddle down the river and the island was reached. Here they met several friends, including five young ladies, with whom the six unfortunate young men spent their last hour on earth.

The wind had lightened, and the St. Lawrence was anything but inviting. It was at once seen that in order to avoid danger the south shore would have to be hugged closely. From the island to the wharf, old St. Lambert wharf, all went well, but the effort to leave the still water resulted in the terrible accident now being chronicled. With strong arms forcing them the seventeen paddlers shot the canoe from the side of the wharf to the open and swift current. So strong was the water that not a moment's warning was given. With a single cry of despair the entire boat load were plunged into the river, some a few feet away from the others, but the majority in a struggling mass which immediately cut off all hope of rescue for those who were underneath. No pen can describe that awful scene; the struggle for life, the heroic efforts of comrades to help each other, the blanched faces of the youths as they sank for the last time, and the prayers of thankfulness from those who safely reached the shore.

D. Candlish was saved by holding on to the up-turned canoe. He graphically describes the last moments of poor O'Brien. Three times he came to the surface and on the third grasped the side of the canoe. His strength was gone and the utter despair on his face told too plainly that he was not to live. "I shall never forget the terrible expression of his eyes," said Candlish, "as his arms slipped from their hold and he sank forever. The scene will never leave me."

In some cases the poor fellows went down like a stone and it seemed that the under current must have carried them away for they were never seen again.

TWO EYE-WITNESSES.

A son of Mr. Thomas H. Turton, who resides at St. Lambert, and a youth named William McBirnie, were bathing within twenty yards of the scene of the accident. The canoe passed near them and they were in perfectly still water. Not an evidence of any approaching danger was apparent, and the first they knew of the accident was when they saw the struggling men in the water. Both boys jumped to their boat and rowed out. After a desperate and heroic struggle they succeeded in saving Messrs. George

Sleep, C. Powell, Crutchlow, and another. Too much praise cannot be given to the boys for the risk they took and their noble efforts, which resulted in the saving of four lives.

ANOTHER ACCIDENT.

Two Men Drowned.

Sunday morning a second drowning fatality took place opposite the boat house of the Grand Trunk Boating Club at Point St. Charles. A party of fifteen French-Canadians were being ferried across to Nun's island in a flat bottomed boat. Six had been safely landed, and then the boat returned for the remaining nine. A strong gale was blowing and a heavy sea running when the boat left the Point St. Charles side, loaded down to the gunwale with men. All had been drinking more or less, and half way across one of them started to rock the boat. A fight ensued, and one man pulled another down by the leg. In falling he struck the side of the boat, which capsized and threw them all into the water.

The accident was seen from the shore, and Messrs. Patterson, Duncan and Kenneth McLaren, launched a boat and started out to the rescue. They saved one man, two more were picked up by Mr. Dromahair, one was saved by a row-boat at the head of Price Island and one swam ashore. Four were found to be missing, but later in the morning a young fellow found one of them standing in a clump of bull-rushes up to his neck in water and almost unconscious from cold, and two hours later another one, named Lepine, was discovered lying partly in the mud on the bank and partly in the water. But the others were not so fortunate. Francis Lacroix, aged 18, and Arthur Francoeur, 23 years old, were drowned. Francoeur, who had earnestly requested the others to keep quiet while he rowed them across, worked in the Rolland Spring Bed Co., and resided at 552 Centre street. Lacroix was an employe of A. Savage & Son, wholesale oil men of this city, and lived with his aunt at 730 Carles street. It is not thought that Lepine will recover.

MISS CRONIN'S ACADEMY.

Musical and Literary Concert.

Last week the closing exercises at Miss Cronin's Academy, on Notre Dame street, took place. Miss Cronin deserves a prize as well as did some of her efficient pupils—at least she is entitled to great credit for the admirable manner in which her school is conducted, and for the creditable display her pupils ever and always make. While giving Miss Cronin her merit of well-earned praise, we cannot omit mentioning Miss E. Cronin, the accomplished teacher of music; professor Carlier, the violin instructor, and the clever young artist Mrs. Ternan, who teaches drawing at the Academy. Miss Cronin and her assistants deserve all the encouragement they can get, and we hope to see her sphere of usefulness widen as the years roll on.

THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMME WAS MOST CREDITABLY RENDERED AND ELICITED MUCH APPLAUSE:

- Piano Solo, March, Nora Connolly Recitation, "Rabbone," Doris Langein Song, "Sylvia and Robin," Choir Dialogue, "Be Prompt in What You Do," Louisa Cullen, Mary Doolan, Nora Connolly, Lizzie Houlahan. Piano Solo, "La Ballade," A. Balhazar Recitation, "Ten Thousand a Year," Frank Coyle, Herbert Reid, and Piano Duet, "The Darkey's Dream," Nora Connolly, Maudie Kerns Recitation, "The Star," Lillie Superior Dialogue, "The Dolly's Necklace," Choir, "Saubemas," Choir

The rev. director, Father James Callaghan, presided. Rev. Father O'Donnell and Mr. Temple were also present, and after the distribution of prizes the rev. director, Father Callaghan, made some very complimentary and encouraging remarks, followed in a like strain by Rev. Father O'Donnell and Mr. Temple. The following is a list of the special prize winners: Nora Connolly, gold medal, for music, punctuality and assiduity. Louisa Cullen, 2nd prize, silver medal. Lillie Superior, Lucy Whitmore, Lena Fitzgerald, Lizzie Houlahan, Bella Perry, silver medals, general excellence. Frank Coyle, medal, writing. Henri Coupat, medal, punctuality. Oliver Chaput, medal, arithmetic and application. Thomas Curtios.

Four beautiful books, awarded by Mr. Codd, of the Inland Revenue Department, were awarded to Miss A. Balhazar for lace work; Doris Langevin, drawing; Maria Ouellette, book-keeping and translation; Albina Grignon, point lace and drawing.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

One of our subscribers, Mr. John McCaffrey of Helena, P. Q., has sent us the sum of five dollars (\$5.00) to be added to the fund for the Irish elections. As this fund is under the charge of Archbishop Walsh of Toronto, we forwarded the amount to His Grace. The list is as far as the TRUE WITNESS knows stands this: J. J. Curran, Q.C., M.P., \$20.00. Jos. Bourdier, 5.00. A Toronto Priest, 5.00. Father O'Connor, 10.00. John McCaffrey, 5.00.

ST. CUNEGONDE SCHOOL.

Exhibition of Works in Art.

Owing to the number of school examinations and distributions of prizes that took place last week we were unable to give reports of them all. We however, cannot omit this week a couple of the latest commencements. The St. Cunegonde School, better known as an Academy, is situated at 48 Vinet Street, in St. Cunegonde parish. It was founded about two years ago and was placed under the care of the good Christian Brothers, those humble but able educators of youth. In all lands, and in none more than Canada, are the merits of these worthy teachers recognized and felt. Despite the sneers of some would-be clever men, in all the branches belonging to commercial education they excel and their pupils, so successful in every walk sustain their reputation. They teach calligraphy, commercial correspondence, banking, insurance, telegraphy, stenography, book-keeping and every other useful and almost indispensable branch, not to speak of a thorough Christian education in the principles of faith and morals.

On last Sunday week in the St. Cunegonde school, there was an exhibition of the works done by the students during the scholastic year that closed on the precious Thursday; the exhibition concluded on Monday last. There are certain things that are worth seeing and which stand as the best evidence of the pupils' success and the teachers' ability. In the branch of linear drawing might be noticed an admirable plan of the School House by Mr. Edward Philippe; the plan of the St. Cunegonde Presbytery by Mr. Arthur Caron; and the plan in relief of the same building, by Mr. Alphonse Venne.

Ornamental drawing is most useful, and in that delicate branch several very creditable samples were shown. Considering the youth of the artists, we must say that Lullie, by Master Joseph Massicotte is admirable; the pose of the violinist is really attractive. There are a couple of other fine specimens: Three horses' heads in a trough, by Master Zolique Fabien, and two dogs, by Eugene Sauvageau. The calligraphic copy books were very good, especially those of Messrs. Alphonse Venne, Albert Gibeau and Olier Lacroix. Several donations of prizes were made to the school, a gold medal by Rev. J. H. Roy, Superior of the Sherbrooke Seminary; a splendid watch by Mr. N. G. Ducharme; three gold medals by Mr. Marcel Lymburner; a gold medal by Mr. Louis Desjardins; a gold medal, by Dr. Cypriot; a gold medal, by Rev. Mr. Gastonguay; and another gold medal, by the members of the Moliero Club.

The following are the victors in the different class contests: Calligraphy, Mr. Alphonse Venne; Excellence, Mr. Edouard Philippe; Arithmetic, Mr. Olier Lacroix; Book-keeping, Mr. Horrasmas Trudel; Drawing, Mr. Edouard Philippe; Ornamental drawing, Mr. Joseph Massicotte; French, Mr. Joseph Couture, and Mr. Henri Lafonde for application. Each of these pupils received a gold medal. Mr. Albert Gibeau got the watch as a prize for English.

ST. BRIGIDE, IBERVILLE.

On Wednesday, June 22nd, our small village was on the qui vive on the occasion of the marriage of Mr. J. D. E. Lafond, son of D. Lafond, Esq., merchant of this place, to Miss M. E. Donnelly, daughter of Wm. Donnelly, Esq., also merchant of the same place. Also the marriage of Mr. A. Giroux, advocate of Farnham, to Miss E. Lafond, daughter of D. Lafond, Esq. After the marriage ceremonies were over a solemn High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Canon LaRoque, of St. Hyacinthe, Rev. H. Balhazard, P.F., acting as deacon, and as sub-deacon, Mr. A. Lafond, brother of the respective bride and groom. Music and singing were of a very high order, as Mr. Viati, organist of Farnham, presided at the organ, and Mr. Biriz, of St. Hyacinthe, formerly singer at the Jesuit Church, Montreal, and Mr. LeRoy, of Farnham, joined our small choir, so we had a rich musical treat. A large concourse of friends were assembled in the church to witness the ceremony. After Mass the happy couple and invited guests proceeded to the residence of Mr. Lafond, where a sumptuous meal was awaiting them. The two brides received many valuable presents from their friends, which shows the universal esteem in which they were held by their many acquaintances. In the evening the two couples left home on their wedding tour. We hope that heaven's choicest blessings may be lot of Mr. and Mrs. Lafond also of Mr. and Mrs. Giroux through life.

Influence of Early Education.

"As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined," is a trite quotation, and applies forcibly to the influence in manhood that early education exerts. His Holiness Pope Leo XIII. on this subject says: "It is not only the education, but the utmost care is necessary in the selection of those who impart it. A mistake committed in these early, critical years, is difficult to repair in after years. Too many from neglect of the application of the above in early years have felt the pang in grey-haired age of the thought 'It might have been.'"