

THE FRANCISCAN.

Recently a quaint and picturesque form has appeared in our city that irresistibly reminds us of the figures in an ancient Cathedral or Convent window or engraving in an old illuminated missal, a form unfamiliar to Montreal, great Catholic though it is. So quiet and humble his entry that we scarce knew of his arrival until we saw the brown robe and capuchin of the Franciscan, going his quiet way, telling his beads, reciting his prayers, unconscious of the smile or curious glance of the busy world around him, yet what an important place that brown habit fills in history, how little is known even among Catholics of what civilization owes to the humble follower of the Seraph of Assisi.

Few if any of the important discoveries in art and science since the twelfth century but are due to the devotion, encouragement or inventive genius of the Franciscan. Let us take a brief glance through history and see for ourselves what a glorious role he has played in the drama of the world's inventions and discoveries.

The following are a few of the notable things which can be placed to the credit of the Order of St. Francis. It was a Franciscan who first acquired a knowledge of algebra and book keeping at Venice A. D. 1494. Steam applied to miniature car by Father Vebrecht at Pekin in A. D. 1680—36 years before Watt. Ear and speaking trumpet first invented by Father Kercher in 1657. Quicksilver first discovered by Canon Garces in Peru in 1566. Spectacles disputed between Friar Bacon and Alexander Spink, Monk of Biss 1313. All the world knows the glorious part the Franciscans had in the discovery of America. I may say without exaggeration that Columbus would have hardly succeeded in his undertaking had he not had their noble friendship and practical encouragement. Villandil, in his "Religious Character of the discovery of America," under the heading "The men who took by Columbus," says:

"The first personage that comes before us is the Franciscan friar, Father Juan Perez prior of the monastery of La Rabida, who detained Columbus when he was about to leave for France, and became the patron of his project and the most loyal friend he ever had."

Father Antonio Marchena, of the monastery of La Rabida, who has been confounded with Father Juan Perez was one of Columbus' firmest friends, and was claimed by the latter to have alone remained during seven years steady in his faith in his protégé's designs.

(Appropos of La Rabida, His Holiness Pope Leo Thirteenth has recently sent the Spanish Government a special letter of thanks for ceding to the Franciscan Order the Convent of La Rabida, where Columbus spent the night previous to his departure on the voyage which resulted in the discovery of America.)

Columbus was accompanied on his second voyage by Franciscan missionaries, and as early as 1499 we find Father Mark of Nice in New Mexico, where he was joined by five companions in 1540. The Franciscan Order has the honor of having given the first bishop to the American continent. The first Bishop of Terra Firma, as it was called, (See *Learnings* "Historical Researches," vol. 2, page 15.)

On the 6th of January, 1494, High Mass was celebrated in the first edifice erected in the new world, by the Venerable Apostolic. He was assisted by the Franciscan Father Juan Perez de Marchena and the twelve religious who accompanied Father Boyl. (The first bell for a church in the new world was blessed and put in place by a Franciscan.)

Thus were the Great Admiral in all his movements surrounded by members of religious orders. Amongst them he counted as his nearest and dearest friends the humble wearers of the brown habit.

For the part the Franciscan took in the evangelization of the Indians we have but to glance over the history of America, and the names of the martyrs inscribed therein is proof sufficient of his self-sacrifice and devotion; the abbey, monasteries, churches and schools that meet the eye of the traveller as he journeys through Mexico are fitting monuments to the intrepid courage and burning zeal of these devoted men who in the service of their Divine Master counted no torture, no privation, too great to undergo if by so doing they could win even one soul from

the darkness and degradation of paganism.

To come nearer home. Long before the landing of the pilgrim fathers, we find the courageous Franciscan penetrating the wilds of Northern Canada, bringing the light of faith to the Mohawk and Wyandot tribes.

According to the historian Bancroft, when the population of Quebec numbered but half a hundred, priests of the Franciscan order, Le Caron, Fiel-Lagard, had labored for years in Upper Canada, even as far as the waters of Niagara, where dwelt the Huron Indians.

No mind, however shallow or unreflecting, can fail to be stirred by some serious thought when contemplating the heroic deeds of this noble order. Yet there are some who through want of thought are inclined to look down on the humble friar, to smile at his costume and in their superior worldly wisdom call his mode of life folly, the folly that has won for more than one saint the martyr's crown, "The Folly of the Cross."

No doubt in the far off days of the Messiah, there were thoughtless ones who scoffed at the great Hermit of the desert, St. John the Baptist, perhaps criticized his mode of life, dress and manner of speech, yet he was the precursor of the Expected of Nations, the Voice in the wilderness crying out to make straight the path of the Lord. Let us take heed lest this humble stranger in our midst may not be a voice of warning to us to make smooth the way of the Lord. Let us be mindful lest we entertain angels unawares, for the brown robe covers a heart filled with the peace that passeth understanding and the sandalled feet walk in the golden ways of wisdom, the wisdom that seeks first the Kingdom of God.

MISS S. SUTHERLAND.

BISHOP POWERS DEAD.

A Newfoundland Prelate's Brief Fatal Illness.

St. John's, N. F., December 6.—Dr. Powers, Bishop of this diocese, died Monday evening after twenty-four hours' illness. It will be remembered that in September last Bishop Brennan, of Dallas, Texas, was appointed assistant Bishop of the diocese, but there was no anticipation then that Dr. Powers' life was near its end. Bishop Brennan has assumed direction of affairs, and will probably succeed as Bishop.

Bishop Powers was born in New Ross, West of Ireland, in 1830, studied in Dublin, and, at the Propaganda at Rome, was ordained priest in 1854. He was president of Holy Cross Seminary in 1860-70, and was appointed Bishop of St. John's the latter year, which position he held for twenty-three years. His Grace was a scholastic of Archbishop Ryan, of Philadelphia, and his friends claimed for him the distinction of being as a pulpit orator. His zeal for the erection of church edifices was unbounded. One of his greatest works was the introduction of the Irish Christian Brothers into St. John's, who are now educating 1,500 children.

Bishop Brennan's appointment as assistant to the late Bishop Powers created something of a stir. While Bishop of Dallas he had suspended several priests of the diocese. A protest was made to Rome, and the Bishop subsequently resigned. The appointment was a surprise to Bishop Powers. Bishop Brennan's appointment did not carry with it the right of succession, although at St. John's it seems they expect that he will receive the promotion.

The first of the five sums of £100 each which Archbishop Walsh has placed at the disposal of the Council of the new Catholic College for Girls in Merrion Square, Dublin, has been already allocated for prizes for the years 1893-94. There will also be three prizes of £40, £35 and £25 each.

Cheek Checked.—Tram outsider: Been away yet? Affable stranger: No. I found I could not leave my business. Tram outsider: What business is it? Affable stranger: What, indeed—of yours!

His Holiness has made a present of a richly-bound copy of his poems to the Abbe Schaeppman, deputy, as we learn from the *Bien Public*, of Ghent. The Intermuncipio Loreseili was bearer of the book,

ST. PATRICK'S T. A. & B.

Monthly Meeting of the Society—Weekly Literary Meetings to be inaugurated.

The regular monthly meeting of the above society was held Sunday afternoon. Prior to the business meeting the members assembled in St. Patrick's church for religious exercises, which were conducted by the Rev. J. A. McCullen, S.S., rev. president, who preached a short but eloquent sermon on the subject "Zal for the spread of total abstinence," having his remarks on the concluding words on the total abstinence pledge, "I promise to discountenance the cause and practice of intemperance."

After the sermon the pledge was administered to fourteen persons.

Hon. Senator Murphy presided at the business meeting, and M. Sharkey occupied the vice-chair.

The rev. president addressed the meeting, and gave some practical suggestions which, if carried out, cannot fail to increase the membership of the society.

The reports and minutes were submitted by the secretary, Mr. J. J. Costigan, and were approved.

Six new members were admitted to the benefit branch.

Mr. James Cunningham made a few remarks on the present prosperity of the society, which, he said, was due to the untiring efforts of the rev. president and the officers of the society.

The secretary, Mr. J. J. Costigan, reported that the committee of management had arranged to hold a series of literary meetings weekly during the winter months. These meetings would be held on every Tuesday evening.

Hon. Senator Murphy made a brief address, in the course of which he highly approved of the meetings about to be inaugurated.

The first annual report of the dramatic section of the society was read. The section has elected the following as office-bearers for the year: President, Mr. Thomas Smallshire; secretary, Mr. W. P. Doyle; treasurer, Mr. E. P. Ward; stage manager, Mr. L. C. O'Brien; assistant do., Mr. T. G. Kavanagh; properties, Messrs. W. Watson and T. Cullen.

A committee of fifteen members, under direction of Mr. James Mulloy, marshal, were appointed to take charge of St. Patrick's church and midnight mass on Christmas eve. Considerable routine business was transacted, after which the meeting was brought to a close.

A meeting of the committee of management was held subsequently, Mr. John Walsh in the chair.

The Proper Date.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

SIR,—I notice with pleasure the progress in the work of erection of the splendid obelisk to be placed on the spot, and in commemoration of the first Mass celebrated 250 years ago on this island, and I hear it is intended to inaugurate the monument in January or February next. Now I beg to be permitted to make a few humble suggestions. As the first Mass was offered on the 18th of May, I would humbly suggest that the inauguration be delayed till that day as being more appropriate, besides being a much more favorable season for an open air demonstration. As the Mass is essentially the most solemn act of religion in the Catholic Church, I would also suggest that His Grace the Archbishop be invited to preside at the inauguration, and impart at the same time to the monument the solemn benediction of the Church, according to the Roman Ritual, assisted by Franciscan and Jesuit priests as representatives of the first missionaries to Canada. As the 18th May is also the birthday of our fair city, an invitation might be extended to our Mayor and City Council to be present on the memorable occasion. As our national painter, St. Charles, has reproduced in a masterpiece painting "the first Mass" (a work greatly admired in Paris), may I also suggest that lithographic and photo. copies of the painting be taken before it is placed permanently in the Sacred Heart chapel of Notre Dame Church.

J. A. J.

As a goods train from Belfast to Toome was passing over a crossing on the Randalstown side of Toome bridge, on the 14th ult., an old woman named Margaret Hamilton, a mendicant, was run over and instantly killed.


CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY.

At the annual meeting of the above Society, whose report was published in these columns last week, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. J. H. Feeley, re-elected by acclamation; vice-president, Mr. F. W. Wurtela; secretary, Mr. H. J. Codd, re-elected by acclamation; treasurer, Mr. J. J. Maguire, re-elected; assistant secretary, Mr. F. Collins; marshal, Mr. F. Cagney. Committee of management: Messrs. Jas. Walsh, J. Milloy, E. J. Duggan, H. Singleton, Jas. Barrow, P. Doyle, and W. Alcock.

The next general meeting of the Society will be held on Friday evening, the 15th inst., at 8 p.m., in the Library Hall under the Gesù. Those wishing to become members, or seek information regarding the Society, are invited to communicate with the secretary, 180 Notre Dame street, or come to the meeting on Friday evening.

With the Cholera About.—Mrs. Tell The Romans have gone to Kissingen to drink the waters. Mrs. Nurvuss: I hope they'll have the prudence to boil them first.—*Funny Folks.*

DR. WOOD'S



Norway Pine Syrup.

Rich in the lung-healing virtues of the pine combined with the soothing and expectorant properties of other pectoral herbs and barks.


A PERFECT CURE FOR COUGHS AND COLDS

Hoarseness, Asthma, Bronchitis, Sore Throat, Croup and all THROAT, BRONCHIAL and LUNG DISEASES. Obsolete coughs which resist other remedies yield promptly to this pleasant pine syrup.

PRICE 25c. AND 50c. PER BOTTLE.

SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

\$3 a Day Sure.



Send me your address and I will show you how to make \$3 a day; absolutely sure; I furnish the work and teach you free; you work in the locality where you live. Send me your address and I will explain the business fully, remember, I guarantee a clear profit of \$3 for every day's work; absolutely sure; don't fail to write to-day.

A dress A. W. KNOWLES.

Windsor, Ontario.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.

This Great Household Medicine ranks amongst the leading necessities of life.

These famous Pills purify the BLOOD and act most wonderfully, soothingly, on the STOMACH, LIVER, KIDNEY and BOWELS, giving tone, energy and vigor to these great MAIN SPRINGS OF LIFE. They are confidently recommended as a never failing remedy in all cases where the constitution, from whatever cause, has become enfeebled or weakened. They are wonderfully effective as to all ailments incidental to females of all ages, and as a GENERAL FAMILY MEDICINE are unsurpassed.

Holloway's Ointment.

Its Searching and Healing properties are known throughout the world for the cure of

Bad Legs, Bad Breasts, Old Wounds, Sores and Ulcers

This is an infallible remedy. If effectually rubbed on the neck and chest, as salt into meat, it cures SORE THROAT, Diphtheria, Bronchitis, Coughs, Colds, and even ASTHMA. For Glandular Swellings, Abscesses, Piles, Fistulas.

GOUT, RHEUMATISM, and every kind of SKIN DISEASE, it has never been known to fail.

The Pills and Ointment are manufactured only at

538 OXFORD STREET, LONDON, and are sold by all vendors of medicine throughout the civilized world, with directions for use in almost every language.

The Trade Marks of these medicines are registered at Ottawa. Hence, anyone throughout the British possessions who may keep the American counterfeits for sale will be prosecuted.

Purchasers should look to the Label of the Pills and Ointment. If the address is not 538 Oxford Street, London, they are spurious.