

SOCIETY—Established 1856, incorporated 1864. Meets in Hall, 92 St. Alexander Street Monday of the month. Meets last Wednesday. Rev. Director, Rev. P. P. Doyle; President, C. J. Doherty; Secretary, M. Devlin, M.D.; Treasurer, B.C.L.; Treasurer, Green; Correspondent, J. Kahala; Secretary, T. P. Tansey.

T. A. AND B. SOCIETY.—On the second Sunday in St. Patrick's Cathedral, at the committee of Management hall on the first of every month at 8 o'clock, Rev. Jas. Kilgallon, W. P. Doyle; Recorder, P. Gurney, 716 St. St. Henri.

A. & B. SOCIETY, 1863.—Rev. Director, Rev. P. P. Doyle; President, D. J. Quinn; Secretary, J. F. Quinn, 18 St. Augustin; Treasurer, Thomas Young and Ottawa 10 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY, 1885.—Meets in its own hall, on the first of each month, at 10 o'clock, Rev. C.S.S.R.; President, Treasurer, Thomas Young and Ottawa 10 p.m.

AUXILIARY, Disorganized Oct. 10th. Meetings are held in St. Alexander, 92 St. Alexander, Sunday of each month on the third Thursday. President, Mrs. A. J. Quinn; Vice-President, Mrs. J. F. Quinn; Recording Secretary, Mrs. J. F. Quinn; Secretary, Mrs. J. F. Quinn; Treasurer, Mrs. J. F. Quinn; Father McGrath.

CANADA BRANCH, 18th November. 26 meets at St. Alexander, 92 St. Alexander, Monday of each month. Regular meetings for the purpose of business are held on the 4th and 11th Mondays at 8 p.m. Spiritual Director, M. Callaghan; Chairman, P. J. McDonagh; Secretary, J. Costigan; Treasurer, H. Feeley, Jr.; Medical Director, H. J. Harrison; and G. H. Merrill.

CHRISTMAS ORDINATIONS.—The Christmas ordinations of this year have given to the Church young Irish priests, one of whom, it is said, will be associated with our Irish parishes. It is only a few weeks since that we had occasion to dwell upon the important subject of priestly vocations amongst the young men of our Irish families. We joined others in the expression of regret that they are not more numerous. It is, therefore, with an increased joy that we behold some of the most promising, most talented, and most worthy of our young men

The True Witness AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE. Witness

Vol. LIII, No. 25

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1903.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

IS PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE TRUE WITNESS P. & CO., Limited.

255 St. James Street, Montreal, Canada. P. O. Box 1138.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE—City of Montreal (delivered), \$1.50; other parts of Canada, \$1.00; United States, \$1.00; Newfoundland, \$1.00; Great Britain, Ireland and France, \$1.50; Belgium, Italy, Germany and Australia, \$2.00. Terms, payable in advance.

All Communications should be addressed to the Managing Director, "The True Witness" P. & Co., Limited, P. O. Box 1138.

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.

THE MIDNIGHT MASS.—Of all the delightful and pious devotions and ceremonies that the Church invites us to take part in, throughout the entire year, there is none that approaches those of Christmas Eve. Other churches celebrate the Nativity of Christ, other communions meet at the Christmas board, sing hymns and hold services in their temples. But none have the dear and glorious sacrifice of the Midnight Mass. There is something so home-like in that solemn Midnight Mass, that one feels linked by it, as by no other earthly influence, to the memories of the past. And especially is it so when the olden hymns are sung, the hymns that we listened when children, and that tell of the angels, in chorus, proclaiming the great message to the human race. It will be this year, as it has been in the past, that special Masses will be sung in all our city churches. There is no other occasion when the faithful go forth in the solemn hour of the night, and kneeling, await the coming in of a day that commemorates the commencement of the most stupendous work that the records of time contain.

The Midnight Mass has been described by so many eloquent pens, the scenes that accompany it have been pictured by so many graphic writers, and we are so accustomed to all its enchanting realities, that there is no necessity for any attempt here at an account of what then takes place.

Never, however, do we kneel at the brilliantly lighted altars and contemplate the immense number of pious Christians participating in the adorable sacrifice, than we figure to ourselves the scenes in another dear Old Land, when over the mountains trudged the peasants for miles, to hear the Mass sung by a refugee priest in some secluded and carefully-guarded glen. And we feel grateful in our hearts that those days are of the past, and can return no more. We are thankful for the great boon of religious freedom which we enjoy in this new country, and for the undeterred spirit with which we can bend our knees to the shrines of devotion and there united in the great offering that marks the coming of Christ.

It seems to us that these thoughts, springing from such a contrast of situations, should stimulate us all to take advantage of the liberty we enjoy, and to prove our appreciation thereof, by going in numbers, animated with an exceptional spirit of devotion, to the Church of Christmas Eve. Some go through curiosity; others go to hear the delightful music; but they are not of our olden faith. It is not thus that we go, for to us there is in the Midnight Mass the most sublime act of adoration that man can offer to God. We trust that this evening the temples will be filled to their utmost capacity, and that the devotion displayed by our faithful fellow-citizens will be the source and spring of untold graces from above.

SENSATIONAL FABRICATIONS.—How often have we not exposed the false despatches, coming from Rome, or purporting to come from there, that periodically startle the reading public of this continent? Some of these wild guesses are most damaging; others are so silly that they bear their own refutation upon their very faces; again others are cunningly devised and are hard to be detected. It all depends upon the subject selected, and upon the special qualifications of the writer for journalistic mendacity. It seems to us that the inventive genius of the correspondent who sent out, last week the story about the millions that came suddenly to Pius X., would qualify him for writing another "Monte Cristo," or rather a second series of Baron Munchausen.

entering the ranks of the great sacerdotal army that does the sublime work of the Church Militant on the field of existence. It is with heartfelt gratitude to the Providence that watches over the destinies of the Church and of the human race, that we raise a humble voice of congratulations and of well-wishes for their future careers. It is, after all, the most sublime of all vocations. From time immemorial it was the ambition of all good families to have a member in the sanctuary. Amongst the faithful children of the Church in Ireland, we all know the sacrifices made, by thousands and thousands, to secure the honor and privilege of having a son in the priesthood. The story of the "poor scholar" has passed from lip to lip, till tradition and history have combined to make it familiar to us all. Once a young boy becomes marked for the sanctuary, there was no sacrifice too great that the parents, relatives and friends would not make to secure success for the one who had been so happily "called." In fact, he passed amongst his fellow-youths, and amongst the older people, as a personage already sacred by anticipation. We can fully appreciate the sentiments of those Irish families in the days of tribulation and severe trials. And it is with that same appreciation that we now turn to the families of our newly ordained priests and join them in their happiness on beholding the realization of their fondest desires and hopes.

It seems to us that no more glorious moment can exist in the life of a good parent than the one that marks the first ascension of the altar by a newly-ordained son. And it appears to us that there is actually no people on earth who have ever manifested a deeper faith in the priesthood than have the children of the Celtic race. We can thus fully enter into the spirit of the occasion, and while extending congratulations to the youthful priests, we desire that their families may accept the same. And in presence of this very inspiring and edifying spectacle we desire to give voice to the sincere hope that the near future will bring many repetitions of these happy circumstances. We would be so glad to see the ranks of our Irish priesthood, especially in Canada, increased by the addition of more pious, zealous and devoted young souls. We need them; the Church requires them; the faithful have great use for them. May others walk in the footsteps of those who will, for a first time, on this Holy Christmas Day, sing the sublime "Glorias" of the imperishable Mass; and may Providence grant to them long years to labor in the glorious field of their election.

The funeral was held in St. Jerome's Church, 16th inst., with Revs. P. J. Harkins, J. C. Ivers, A. W. O'Malley and S. J. Halessey as officiating priests in the presence of 500 people of the Springfield (Mass.) diocese. The eulogy by the pastor, Rev. Father Harkins, a warm friend of the deceased for 40 years, was a beautiful tribute to her womanly virtues and Christian character. He stated in feeling language that her likes are growing daily less numerous. Her delights were with her household cares and children, and nobly battled with the world and won the good fight. The burial services were conducted in St. Jerome's cemetery by Rev. Father O'Malley, assisted by Fathers McCaughen, McGovern, Griffin, Hurley, Adrian, O'Brien, Lunney and many others. May her soul rest in peace. Amen.

of the men, who were recently repairing electric light fixtures in the Vatican, and who came upon about a million and a half of money that the late Pope had hidden away in a hole in the wall. Now this was a passable fabrication; it was altogether improbable, but it was quite within the range of possibility. The writer might have scored a point had he been satisfied with that one big lie. But he had to allow his talent for romance to carry him into a still wider field. He told how one day Cardinal Gotti landed, with an attendant, at the Vatican, and between them they carried in a huge and mysterious bag. It was found that this bag held nine million dollars in bank notes. To add a little spice, or flavor to the story, we got the details that the late Pope had confided this vast sum to Cardinal Gotti, and told him that if he succeeded to the Papacy he should keep the immense fortune; and if he were not to be Pope, he should hand it over, in four months from the date of his election, to the new Pope.

In the first place, we need only say that the entire story has been fabricated out of whole cloth, and that the Vatican authorities, as soon as they heard of it, issued a flat contradiction. It is too bad to spoil such a romantic little story, for certainly it demanded a certain amount of ingenuity to concoct it, and, perhaps, the one who did the fabricating, depended greatly upon its success, for a rise in the world of sensational journalism. What the novelist would call the "make up" of the story was very faulty. Just imagine a bag containing nine millions of dollars in bank bills. The Cardinal and his assistant would need to have been men of superhuman strength to carry such a load. Could one vehicle hold the sack that would be required to contain such an amount of money. Some writers, especially those who have lively imaginations, form very little idea of the bulk and extent of the millions that flow so easily from their facile pens. It was a technical mistake on the part of the correspondent, and had not the denial followed the sensational news so rapidly, we are sure that on reflection the reading public would have eventually detected the flaw.

Once more we can warn our readers against accepting as authentic any Roman news that does not bear the sanction of ecclesiastical approval, and that can only be found in the Catholic press.

DEATHS IN OUTSIDE PLACES.

MRS. TEAHAN.—On Dec. 14 Mrs. Mary Healy Teahan, wife of Michael J. Teahan, died in Holyoke, Mass., aged 67. She was a native of Glenflesk, Co. Kerry, Ireland. She came to Holyoke with her two sisters and mother, 54 years ago, and at once became actively identified with Catholic interests, even in girlhood days, having charge of the Sunday School, and was a leading singer in the choir of St. Jerome's Church, founded some 40 years ago. She was married in 1861 to Michael J. Teahan, and became the mother of 13 children, 6 of whom with the husband survive her. They are the Rev. James Teahan, of Worcester, Mass.; Mrs. C. T. Callahan, wife of the Democratic candidate for Lieut.-Gov. of Mass.; Misses Mary A., Agatha F., Mabel C., and Rose, and also her two sisters, Mrs. Julia Warren and Nellie T. Healy, the well known Holyoke milliner.

The funeral was held in St. Jerome's Church, 16th inst., with Revs. P. J. Harkins, J. C. Ivers, A. W. O'Malley and S. J. Halessey as officiating priests in the presence of 500 people of the Springfield (Mass.) diocese.

The eulogy by the pastor, Rev. Father Harkins, a warm friend of the deceased for 40 years, was a beautiful tribute to her womanly virtues and Christian character. He stated in feeling language that her likes are growing daily less numerous. Her delights were with her household cares and children, and nobly battled with the world and won the good fight. The burial services were conducted in St. Jerome's cemetery by Rev. Father O'Malley, assisted by Fathers McCaughen, McGovern, Griffin, Hurley, Adrian, O'Brien, Lunney and many others. May her soul rest in peace. Amen.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The story of the growth and progress of the city of Toronto, shows that at no time in its history have there been wanting patriotic Irishmen, who loving Ireland with the ardor of exiles, were ready and willing to further every possible plan which seemed to promise betterment for the Isle across the sea and the dear ones still on its shores.

Amongst the families of the city there are still some who were personally interested, and who have sad memories of the movement, which led to the ever lamentable deaths of the "Manchester Martyrs," in days past the men of Toronto started out to stand hand to hand and shoulder to shoulder with those who on the other side of the Atlantic were fighting Ireland's battles.

When the news that famine and want were devastating her shores, and that if left unaided, naught but death faced the sufferers in the Emerald Isle, Toronto was amongst the first to respond.

On each recurring St. Patrick's Day, the Irish harp, the "sunburst on a field of green" and the dear little shamrock are everywhere visible, and a love which waxes not, but increases with time, fills the hearts of the men and women who either in their own person or in that of their ancestors, claim as the place of their birth the little green Island, the Isle of Saints.

Amongst the names conspicuous in the ranks of Irish societies of the present day is that of Hugh McCaffrey. An Irishman by birth and education, he came to this country at the age of nineteen years, already imbued with a loyal love for his native land, and impregnated with the sunshine and tears of its destiny. He was born in the County Fermanagh, and educated at the National schools. Mr. McCaffrey first tried St. Thomas, but in 1882 came to Toronto. Before coming to Canada he had been a member of the Board of Erin, an association corresponding to that of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Mr. McCaffrey is naturally modest, and but little given to talking about himself, but he has friends who can speak for him, and one of those said "you cannot say too much, and you cannot say anything too good about Hugh; he never spares himself; he has given his time and his money for years in the Irish cause; he is one of the finest men I know."

Mr. McCaffrey is a Nationalist of vigorous type, and his activities and inclinations find their chief vent in the Ancient Order of Hibernians, in which Society since its establishment in Ontario, he has held almost every office. At different times he has been sentinel, recording secretary, president and Provincial President of the Order. He is at present President of Division No. 5, which meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday in their hall corner Dundas and Queen streets. He has attended every National convention of the Order, except one since its establishment in Hamilton in 1888, and has sat as delegate in Montreal, Hamilton, Toronto, Stratford, Niagara Falls, Ont., Kingston and Ottawa. In the United States, too, Mr. McCaffrey is no stranger, and amongst his friends he counts the well known Irishmen Mr. P. O'Neil, of Philadelphia, and Mr. Keating, of Chicago. As representative of Ontario he attended the National Convention held at Detroit, Mich., in 1894, and in 1900 was one of three from Ontario at Boston. As a speaker on Irish subjects, Mr. McCaffrey has made himself felt, and he has been largely instrumental in introducing the insurance element into the A. O. H.

As delegate of the Trades and Labor party he attended their convention at Montreal in 1889. Mr. McCaffrey is engaged at the Massey Works; his wife was Miss Connolly, a native of Monaghan, Ireland, and they with their five children reside on Wellington Avenue in St. Mary's parish.

C.M.B.A.—At the closing meeting of the passing year of Branch 111, C.M.B.A., the largest number present during the term was registered. Three new members were initiated. The spiritual adviser, Rev. James Walsh, was present. The officers for the coming year are: President, Vincent P. Fayle, jun.; vice-president, James Kelly; 2nd vice-president, Daniel J. Reddin; recording secretary, William J. Markle; assistant recording secretary, John J. Boland; treasurer, P. Temple; financial secretary, V. P. Fayle; guard, T. J. O'Connor; marshal, W. J. Pegg; trustees, W. J. Markle, James Kelly, J. J. Boland, W. E. Pegg, J. J. Reddin; representative to convention, James W. Mullin; alternative, Thos. McQuillan.

ORDINATIONS.—At 8 o'clock on Monday morning, Dec. 21st, three young men were raised to the priesthood by His Grace Archbishop O'Connor. The ceremony took place at St. Basil's Church. The new priests are Rev. Father Vincent Murphy, son of Mr. J. J. Murphy, of the Crown Lands Department; Rev. Father James Hayes, of Orillia, and Rev. Father Dittman, of Philadelphia, who is destined for work in the United States. Father Murphy has been for some time past on the staff of St. Michael's College.

AT COLLINGWOOD.—The people of Collingwood have just closed a most successful "Forty Hours." Despite the fact that in some parts the snow had reached the fence tops, the Church was filled at all the exercises. The parish priest, Rev. Father O'Leary, was assisted by Rev. Father Laboureau, of Penetanguishene, Rev. Father McGrand, of Toronto, Rev. Father Cline, Newmarket; Rev. Father Jeffcott, Stayner, and Rev. Dean Egan, of Barrie; the latter two gentlemen delivered several impressive sermons during the Devotion. The exercises were terminated by a public profession of Faith by the entire congregation followed by a procession in which the Sodality took part.

The beautiful singing of several English hymns by the young ladies of this society, was admired even by those accustomed to the music of the city choirs. It may be safely said that the late loved pastor, Rev. E. J. Kiernan, who for so many years, had ministered to the parish, was not forgotten during those days of grace and that many a grateful prayer was offered for his eternal welfare.

The results of the Forty Hours were very encouraging to the enthusiastic new pastor who has had the parish but a few months in charge.

ST. JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL.—On the afternoon of Dec. 15th, the 22nd annual distribution of prizes took place at St. Joseph's High School for girls. The exercises were held in the hall of the De La Salle Institute, and a good sized audience was present.

This school during its twenty-two years' existence has done good work in the secondary education of girls, often too under very adverse circumstances, as the school accommodation and equipment are far from being of the best.

A musical and literary programme was taken part in by all the pupils of the school, Miss Pauline Padden in her recitation "The Madonna of Palos," showing talent much more than ordinary and Miss Evaline O'Donoghue, in her singing of "The Four Leafed Shamrock," displaying a sweet and well trained voice.

Departmental awards, commercial diplomas and medals were then presented to about twenty-five of the pupils. Several of the trustees and priests from the different city parishes were present, also the Provincial Inspector, Mr. Prendergast, B. A. The latter gentleman and two or three of the trustees addressed the pupils, complimenting them on their success; the Sisters of St. Joseph were also congratulated on the results crowning their efforts in the cause of education. The speakers were unanimous in disapproving of the poor building in which the school is held, and in hoping that a better one would soon take its place.

SODALITY OF ST. FRANCIS.—At the new Church of St. Francis,

the first reception into the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin was held on Sunday evening last. Fifty-five members were received, and added to the thirty originally of St. Mary's parish, who formed a nucleus for the new branch. The affair had been pleasantly looked forward to and fulfilled its every promise.

The parish is still under the laudable excitement of equipping itself, so as to stand worthily amongst the best of the city parishes, and last Sunday it gave public testimony of its ability to do so. New vestments, resplendent in scarlet and gold were worn by the officiating pastor, and a magnificent banner headed the procession of white-veiled Sodalityists who entered from the main door of the Church and filled the front pews during the Benediction.

An eloquent sermon was preached by the parish priest, Rev. W. A. McCann, who first explained the objects of the Sodality, and then entered into a loving exposition of the life of the Blessed Mother, whose children they were now about to become in a particular manner. The singing of "Children of Mary," and "Come Holy Ghost" by the Sodality, and musical Vespers by the children of the parish, with Miss Angela Bryon at the organ, and Miss Nellie Cortet directing were much admired.

The banner came in for special comment; it is one of the most beautiful perhaps unequalled by any Sodality banner in the city. It is of large dimensions, the ground being white watered silk, centered by a painting of the Blessed Virgin with inscriptions worked in blue and gold; over the silken surface wild roses and forget-me-nots are worked profusely; a gilt cross and handsome gold fringe and tassels give the finishing touch to this fine piece of work. The banner was designed and executed by Mrs. James Carroll, of the parish.

LATE ALEX. MACDONELL.—One of the oldest and most respected of our Catholic citizens was called to his reward a few days ago in the person of Mr. Alexander Macdonell, of Osgoode Hall. The deceased gentleman, who was 84 years, was one of the sons of Hon. Alexander Macdonell, first sheriff of the Home district, after the organization of the Province of Upper Canada in 1792. Mr. Macdonell had never married and much of his long life had been devoted to works of charity, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Italian mission of St. Patrick's parish coming in for a goodly share of his attention. He was also interested—but without finding helpers except in a very limited degree—in the work of building a movement to the victims of the ship-fever, who lie unknown, and to a great extent forgotten, in nameless graves near St. Paul's Church.

Though of Scotch descent, Mr. Macdonell was a friend to all things Irish, and a sympathizer with Home Rule; he had for many years been actively interested in the Catholic journalistic work of the city.

The funeral took place from St. Patrick's Church, where a Mass of Requiem was sung by the rector, Rev. Father Barrett, C.S.S.R., who, though contrary to custom, said a few words in praise of the deceased gentleman. The interment took place at St. Michael's cemetery. May he rest in peace.

CONDOLENCE.

At a recent meeting of the A.O.H., County Board of Hochelaga, feeling references were made to the death of Mr. John J. Barry, president of Division No. 10, and one of the most enthusiastic workers in the ranks of the great Irish organization. A resolution of sympathy with the bereaved family was adopted.

ABOUT TALKING.

Think twice before you speak and then talk to yourself.

THE MONEY IDEA.

Common sense is the ability to detect values—to know a big thing from a little one. I'd rather possess common sense than to have six degrees from Trinity College, Oxford.