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## Chronicles of An Old-Timer

**A Holiday Greeting—Canada Our Country—A Nation, Not an Empire—A Salutation to My Irish Fellow-Citizens—Progress of the Renaissance—An American School in Rome for Teaching High Classics—A Vatican Exhibit for St. Louis—Description of Pope Pius X.**

Chicago, Dec. 26, 1903.

Dear Register,—I congratulate you on the approach of a new year and your thousands of readers on the enjoyment of another Merry Christmas. You live in a land of plenty, of liberty and of law-abiding people. Not only do those great qualities bless you, but you exercise the highest attributes of civilization, marked with education, progress and tolerance. I love Canada, dearly and would love her more but for a few faults. I would like to see her rid of the first of which is a supercilious loyalty. I do not condemn loyalty in the abstract because it is a noble national trait, but a loyalty that is unreasoning and based on hate or conquest or contention, I despise. I love peace among men as well as among nations and believe in conciliation among classes. Consequently I despise those principles that go to make warfare among mankind and cause people to suffer.

Imperialism means warfare and conquest and contention and I am therefore an anti-imperialist in every sense of the word. I am for a free Canada, an independent Canada, a progressive and prosperous Canada, without any entangling alliance and doing her own best for her own behalf. Not that I do not wish to see her enjoying relations of friendship and amity and even solicitude with the mother country. I have no respect, however, for Canadians whose highest idea of patriotism is to sing "Rule Britannia" and glory in the Anglo-Saxon race, because they strike false notes in the gamut of national up-building.

Canada as a nation is secure against the world. Let racial and religious animosities be set aside. That can best be done by abandoning old country animosities and working for harmony and peace. Canada never had a war on her own account and never need have. All her wars have been imperial wars and most of her controversies imperial controversies. As an independent nation, making her own laws, controlling her own army, making her own treaties, wielding her own destinies and unaffected by foreign influences, her existence would be one of rapid development, of unprecedented national prosperity, secure in the prospect of uninterrupted peace, a spreading and augmenting commerce, protracted by tariffs when required but open to a trade as free as the air when possible. Canada has a better opportunity to establish an ideal existence than any nation that ever sprung from the womb of time and I hope she will take advantage of the opportunities that Providence has opened for her to be "great, glorious and free."

In the United States she has no enemy and no other nation can or dare attack her. She has fine elements of population. Wise statesmen will see that they are well-mixed, well harmonized, and well inspired. It is a great thing, a noble inheritance to have a free nation, a vast territory, a great future to work for; to see statesmen arise that are above the paltriness of scheming politicians and to see an institutions and agreements that will win the praise and acclamations of nations, contending only for advancement in the arts of peace, progress, education and good will among all mankind.

I wish my Canadian readers at this

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One of these garments will make you comfortable in a blizzard, with the mercury in the bulb of the thermometer. They last for years, and the investment is steadily rising, so to buy to-day would be a good investment.

To meet the prospective demands of the Canadian people we purchased some very heavy shipments of Canadian Ours, and though we could ask a great deal more we have decided to clear out before Christmas some 300 Coats, lined with satin, and finished in our own factory.

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Send the length of your underarm and chest measurement and we will supply you with a coat that can't be duplicated on the continent. Money refunded if purchase is not satisfactory.

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**TORONTO STREET, TORONTO.**

The Irish name of Una McMahon and the American name of Susan Helen Ballou. The latter is an advanced classic in the study of ancient manuscripts, and belongs to the great University of Chicago. Father Ehrle, the librarian of the Vatican, has sent for manuscripts from the library at Bamberg for her examination. It will be interesting to many of your readers to learn that Professor Thatcher of the Chicago University has been in Rome for several years collecting materials for a life of Pope Adrian, the only English Pope, and has succeeded with his work, which is now published. He asserts that the alleged bull of Adrian, giving Ireland to King John, was a forgery. Professor Norton of the same university spent last summer investigating the trade relations between Ancient Rome and the far East. He went across the desert of Turkestan by camel caravan, as far as the frontier of China. He reports numerous traces similar to those of Mesopotamia (where the Celts came from) of an extensive early civilization, and commenced the source from which I derive this information is the correspondence of William E. Curtis of the "Record-Herald," who is now in Rome. He tells the following anecdote about the manuscript of Cicero's Republic, which has an Irish interest: "Dr. Albert W. Van Buren, a fellow of the classical school referred to from Yale University, is working with Father Ehrle upon the text and notes of De Republica, written by Cicero before the time of Augustus. This is very early and one of the most important manuscripts of the imperial period. This manuscript has had a most interesting history. It was one of Cicero's most important works, but the text absolutely disappeared for centuries and no traces of it could be found until about 400 years ago. Some Irish monks in a monastery in Northern Italy wished to copy the writings of St. Augustine, and because of poverty or some other reason, were unable to obtain parchment. So they took an ancient manuscript volume at random from the shelves of the library, erased the letters so far as they were able and then made their copies with a blacker variety of ink upon the same pages. By some fortunate circumstance their work came into the possession of the Vatican and one of the scholars having become curious to know what had been originally written upon the pages, erased the lines of St. Augustine and discovered the long-lost text of Cicero's De Republica. The parchment was cleaned with great care and is now exhibited by the side of the oldest copy of the Bible and the original manuscript of Virgil's Enid in the Pope's library." This shows at least how persistent and pervading were those Irish scholar monks of old; but do you know that Irish scholars claim that the great Roman poet Virgil, here referred to, was an Irishman?

On the representations of Mr. William E. Curtis, commissioner for the St. Louis Exposition at the Vatican, the Pope has instructed Father Ehrle, the prefect of the library, a very learned and accomplished man, to select such articles from the incomparable collection of the Vatican as can be safely sent across the sea, and make up as interesting an exhibit as possible. And thus all that the managers of the exposition desire has been granted. The holy see will be represented at St. Louis in May next for the first time on any similar occasion.

The following description of the new Pope, by Mr. Curtis, a Chicago newspaperman, will interest your readers: "The nearer one approaches to Pius X. the nobler he seems, and in his manners as well as his appearance he is just what you think a pope ought to be—an ideal of gentle dignity and benevolence. But he has a big, strong chin, and that means force of character and determination. You have seen his portraits; for they have been published in almost every newspaper in the world, and his appearance is so striking that they are so much like him that you could identify him instantly even if you should meet on the street in Kansas City or Minneapolis. He is of medium height, of full habit, with every sign of having lived well; a good sleeper, a good eater and of active and energetic temperament. His hair is perfectly white—snow white and quite abundant—and a rebellious little lock always sticks out from under his white biretta over his forehead. His face has a healthy ruddy color, with a clear, brownish complexion that comes from exposure to the weather, because at the top of his forehead, where his hat has protected it, the skin is white. His eyes are his greatest attraction, being large and brown and earnest, with a kindly yet a shrewd expression, and his keen sense of humor causes them to light up instantly at the slightest provocation. But I'm told they can be very stern and stormy at times. The mouth is large, the lips are full and firm, but their expression is benevolent. The nose is strong and shapely and a little larger than the rest of his features. Altogether it is the face of a good man and a man of men. Women call him beautiful, and if that adjective fits any representative of the masculine gender it can properly be applied to him, especially when he appears in his white robes, which are very becoming to him and heighten his ruddy color and the deepness of his eyes.—William Halley.

The Irish have ever been on the side of reform and just conditions in Canada. They have thrown off their bad habits, they have shown their capacity for self-government and the present premier of Ontario, who is himself a Celt, has given his testimony that the Irish form "the best settlers of Canada." They have gone through the cleansing process and are showing the best that is in them. They have given many men of mark to your country—governors, statesmen, orators, educators, inventors, scientists, etc. It is a consolation to myself that I have known many of those men personally, that I have seen and learned of others and that I name a few as examples for others to imitate or follow. I want no triumph, in no superiority for my own. I desire only recognition and equality. I want a high mark and desire to see my people in to it in the operations of the great mixture or amalgam.

Let us now, Mr. Editor, in this dawning of a new year, make a fresh resolve that we shall be animated anew, that we shall as a race be inspired with an innate ambition to excel in the arts and attributes of civilization. We excel in some questionable characteristics; let it be our purpose and our pride to excel only in what is worthy and commendable. Great things are in store for the Irish people both at home and abroad; the renaissance is gaining strength day by day and the prospect grows that the Irish shall once more be leaders in learning, in enterprise, true progress and humane civilization. God bless the Irish in Canada. Let them do their full duty.

There has been re-opened in Rome an American school for teaching high classics. It has as yet but sixteen pupils, and among them there is Norman Wentworth DeWitt of Hamilton, Ont.—To the credit of Chicago stands

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## Re-Opening of St. Mary's Church, Montreal

The parishioners of St. Mary's are once more back into their beautiful little church after an absence of two years. Good will, energy and union of pastor and people have brought the work of restoration to a close. Days, weeks, and hours of laborious and unceasing labor for the pastor has at last been blessed with happy results. When the solemn hour of midnight pealed forth what a devout spectacle presented itself to the devout worshippers. The beautiful chaste walls and pillars, the myriads of electric lights shedding their radiance over the scene and bringing out in bold relief the many pretty designs in the different parts of the sacred temple. Two things remain as mementos of the devouring element—the main altar and the sounding board above the pulpit. The dome was beautifully illuminated with green electric lights, presenting a fine contrast to the white below and around it. The congregation was the largest that was seen in the church for many years.

The ceremony of blessing the edifice was performed, by Mgr. Racicot, vicar-general of the diocese, who also officiated at midnight mass. At the latter the choir, assisted by an orchestra, rendered Faucouner's "Messe de Paques," and at the offertory Van Reysschoot's "Nato Nobis Salvatore" was given, with Mr. T. C. Emblem as soloist. In "Adeste Fidelis" Mr. W. Kelly took the part of soloist. A number of Christmas hymns were also sung. The musical portion of the service was very finely rendered. Prof. James Wilson was musical director and organist. Prof. William Sullivan was the leader of the orchestra, and Mr. T. C. Emblem conducted the choir. The soloists were: Messrs. W. Kelly, J. J. Rowan, P. Phelan, L. Prevost, T. C. Emblem, J. and A. Emblem, J. Connolly and J. B. O'Hara. The solo, "Nato Nobis Salvatore," given by Mr. T. C. Emblem, the leader of the choir, was a gem, and was much admired by the congregation. At half-past ten the high mass was sung by Rev. Father Condon, C.S.C., St. Laurent College. The choir rendered "Messe de Ste. Therese," by Th. de La Hache, in an excellent manner. The Credo, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei, being very pretty selections, and the solos sung by Mr. W. Kelly, the first tenor, were delightful. His voice was heard to good advantage. At the conclusion of the mass, "Angels we have heard on High" was given by Messrs. R. J. Louis Cuddily, A. Emblem and choir.

## Xmas at St. Michael's Cathedral

The services at St. Michael's Cathedral were beautiful and impressive. The first Mass was held at 5.30 a.m., and Masses were celebrated at half-hour intervals up to 10.30. All the masses were largely attended. Archbishop O'Connor was the celebrant at the Pontifical High Mass, Dr. Tracey acting as assistant priest, Father Rohleder as deacon and Father Murray sub-deacon. The Archbishop preached in the morning a simple but very earnest sermon, taking the birth of Christ as his subject. The venerable prelate pointed out that Christmas never gets tired of celebrating Christmas. It is a season always new and refreshing, because it brings tidings of great joy, tidings of the birth of a Saviour to the world. And every Christmas morning our faith is awakened and strengthened. But no one who is not a saint of God can properly understand and appreciate the true significance of Christmas, in his own image and endowed him with natural and supernatural life. His will is his own, and though the Creator asks service from him, He wants it to come freely and voluntarily. The speaker enjoined his hearers to live pure, upright lives, fearing and obeying God. At the conclusion of the sermon the Archbishop bestowed the new Pope's first blessing to the Roman Catholics of Toronto and also delivered his Holiness' first message. The musical services during the day, under the direction of Mr. Millar, the choir leader, were very beautiful. Musical services were attended by very large numbers.

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## A NEW SYSTEM For The NEW YEAR

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## Death of Patrick McCabe, Alliston

On Dec. 21st Patrick McCabe died at Alliston at the great age of 93 years and 4 months. With the death of this venerable old man there passes away one of the oldest pioneers of the Faith in the County of Simcoe. Some 60 years ago he settled in the west of Mono Township, which was then comparatively a wilderness. A few others followed and though scattered and far apart and many a weary mile from Church and priest, this good old man with a few others to whom he was an example, found their way occasionally to the far-off parish of St. Adjala, to keep alive their faith and receive the sacraments.

After a time a priest visited these people in Mono once a month, and for 30 years or more Patrick McCabe's home it was that opened its doors and gave hospitality to the sojourner with the glad welcome of his big, generous Irish heart. So things went on up to about 18 years ago, when the good old man, finding himself at the age of 75 years, unable to bear the burdens of the farm, moved to Alliston to spend the evening of his life, with but one purpose in view, and that was to be near priest and church to prepare himself for eternity. And well did he fulfil the object of his leaving the old homestead that he heaved out of the forest, for the home of his declining years. Now that he has laid down the burden of life, everyone, old and young, rich and poor, Protestant and Catholic, all alike, speak of him as a grand old man, grand in this respect at least, that during his sojourn here of 18 years, his life was one of edification and holiness.

No wonder that his pastor, Father Gibney, on the occasion of his funeral, spoke in feeling terms of the record of his life, and the loss he would be to the parish and to himself personally as a man whose incessant prayers brought down many blessings and graces upon pastor and people, for "prayers of the just man availeth much." Peace be to his soul, and may the memory of the venerable and good old man long live in the parish to encourage others to a higher and holier life.

## St. Vincent De Paul Children's Aid Society

The report of the St. Vincent de Paul Children's Aid Society for the past year has been issued. During the year 321 cases were brought to the notice of the Society affecting the interests of 426 children. Of these 168 were from the Children's Court, and 153 were private cases reported to the Society's agent, Mr. P. Hynes, making a grand total of 2,331 cases affecting the interests of 3,626 children who have been dealt with by the Society up to date. Of the Court cases 12 children were committed to St. John's Industrial School; 4 to St. Mary's Industrial School; 1 to the Mercer Reformatory, and 9 were made wards of the Society by the magistrate. In addition to those made wards by the magistrate, one was transferred by mother and three were transferred from the Sacred Heart Orphanage, Toronto.

Fourteen children were placed in foster-homes during the year, and special reference is made to the excellent reports made by Inspector O'Connor on the condition of these children in their new homes. The following is a copy of a letter received from an adopted parent: "P. Hynes, Esq.: 'Dear Sir,—My little boy is in good health, except for a slight affection of the throat. He is the life of our house, and reflects credit on the good sisters who had charge of him. I hope God will bless you in all your good work as He has blessed me in my boy. Yours, etc.'"

## Separate School Nominations

The nomination of candidates for the Separate School Board were held at noon on Wednesday. The elections in Wards 2, 3, 5, and 6 went by acclamation. In Ward One Messrs. Kelly and Wm. Powers presented themselves for election, and in Ward Four Messrs. J. J. O'Hearn, A. Cottam, M. Dumphy and A. Dubois. The candidates in the other wards are: Ward Two, Father La Marche; Ward Three, Father Rohleder; Ward Five, Vicar-General McCann; Ward Six, Rev. Father Walsh.

## Acknowledgement

The glad Christmas-tide is here once again, and as usual, the inmates of the House of Providence have been generously remembered by the kind benefactors of the Institution. In no place could acts of charity blossom into richer fruit than where they gladden many who will spend their next Feast of the Nativity in Eternity.

The Sisters cordially thank those who added to the Christmas cheer of the old people intrusted to their care; thank their annual subscribers who so munificently donated, thus helping to maintain an average of five hundred and fifty of their less fortunate brethren. The liberality of the citizens for over four decades of years constitutes a precious remembrance, treasured and appreciated with lasting gratitude by the recipients, who pray that God may bestow many choice gifts on the donors, and grant them years full of peace, happiness and prosperity.

## University of Ottawa Appeals for Aid

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 24.—The Citizens' Committee having in charge the raising of funds for the assistance of the University of Ottawa met yesterday afternoon at the City Hall, under the presidency of Sir Sandford Fleming. It was decided to make an appeal for public subscriptions to enable the University to rebuild and continue the work which it has so successfully carried on in the past. In that connection Sir James Murphy, M.L.A., and Denis McMurphy, M.L.A., were appointed canvassers for subscriptions, and an appeal will also be made to all the old students.

Mr. J. O. Wallace, contractor, has a big gang of men musing the work on the dormitory for the Ottawa University college boys. The building will be a two-story frame 40x100 and will cost \$4,500. The plans were prepared by Messrs. Band, Burritt and Meredith.

Rev. Father Emery, the rector of the University, who is now in San Antonio, Texas, is not expected back for a week. During his absence he will visit a number of houses of the Oblate Order, and obtain some assistance toward the rebuilding of the University. On his return plans will be prepared for the first building to be erected, which it is intended to have in readiness for occupation by the 1st of September, 1904.

## New Year's Dispensation for American Catholics

Accompanied by Cardinal Merry del Val's Compliments and Prayers. The following is given for publication: Apostolic Delegation, United States of America, Washington, D.C., Dec. 23, 1903. Your Lordship—I have received a cablegram from His Eminence Cardinal R. Merry del Val, through which he informs me that, as New Year's Day falls on Friday, His Holiness, Pius X., has been pleased to grant on that day a general dispensation from abstinence to all the faithful throughout the United States. In making this communication to Your Lordship, I beg leave to offer to you the compliments of the reason, praying the Holy Infant Jesus to bestow upon you and the faithful committed to your care His choicest blessings.

## PERSONAL

Mr. L. J. Walsh, who has been with Nerlich & Company for nine years, was presented with a gold watch by his fellow employees on Thursday, severing his connection with the firm. W. A. Mace, manager of the Sleeman Brewing Co. of Guelph, who is well known in Toronto, was presented with an address, an easy chair, and a silver cigar case by the employees of the firm, as a Christmas token of appreciation.

Mr. J. J. Seitz, manager of the United Typewriter Co. has left for New York on a business trip.

Mr. David O'Connell of Winnipeg is in the city.

Mr. James S. Somers, who has been with Mr. Edward Sullivan for many years, has decided to go into business for himself. He has purchased the business of Mr. Patrick J. Hynes at 250 Queen street east.

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