

**OUR CURBSTONE OBSERVER.**

**On Guardians of the Peace.**

At this moment when the internal economy of the city police department is undergoing so much investigation and consequent criticism, it may not be out of place for all who walk the curbstones to dot down a few of his observations. My object is not to lay blame at any person's door, for I am not sufficiently conversant with the details of that department to know exactly upon whom the onus should fall. The most I can do is to point out some facts, and they are so potent that none will question them. These facts should not exist; but they do. Some one is responsible; but I am not the person to sift that matter. It is possible that the actual force is inadequate to the requirements of the city, in which case it is the city's business to see that it be increased. If, however, that force is sufficient to meet all the needs of the police there must be something lacking in those who compose its numbers. But, I repeat, that is not my duty to investigate.

**SIMPLE FACTS.**—It is with facts that I have to deal. In the first place I will take a curbstone with which I am somewhat familiar. It runs along Craig street, from the western end of that thoroughfare to the Champ-de-Mars. I will not require to await the passing of daylight and the flickering of lamps. At high noon a citizen, of anything like a respectable appearance, cannot go the length of Craig street without being accosted by some half-intoxicated specimen of humanity, who wants a five cent piece to get a drink. He does not tell you that it is for a drink; as a rule, it is for a shave, or a mouthful of breakfast. He has come out of the hospital (more likely the jail), he will tell you. If you pause at all you are sure to be treated to a long tirade of imaginary hardships, all due to some adverse fate, but never to the fault of the victim. It is quite probable that had he the good luck of having you in a dark lane at that moment, he would be more imperative in his demands. But as it is he is obliged to exhibit a certain degree of respect for you. If you have the kind-heartedness to give him that which he asks, your fate is sealed. As if by magic every bum and loafer that haunts Victoria Square and the environs knows of your charity (?) and has you spotted for the next day. If, on the other hand, you refuse him the donation, you may as well keep out of that region in future, especially after nightfall, because you need not expect any mercy if you have the ill luck to fall into the hands of that beggar or any of his associates, you cannot, I say, go the length of the street, at any hour, without being thus met; but I will wager a dollar against two straws that you will not meet a policeman in all that walk, unless it be by the merest accident. A few detectives, in civilian dress, may be found hovering around the pawn-shops and second-hand dealers' establishments, but the ordinary citizens does not know them and would never dream of appealing to them for protection against the brigands of the square.

**DISGRACEFUL SCENES.**—Go along the same street at night time; say from eight till eleven o'clock. What are you sure to meet? Not a policeman, decidedly. But you will come upon gangs or rders insulting the peaceful citizens who go past; groups of men, holding up corners, who make it impossible for ladies to attempt going along the street. You find women half, or wholly drunk, staggering ahead, and even dancing, shouting, cursing, gathering crowds and making the night abominable with their obscene language and their disgraceful exhibitions. And still no guardian of the peace—not to speak of the city's morals—will you find in half an hour's walk. Turn up St. Lawrence street, a more thickly thronged thoroughfare, and one better lighted, and generally more respectable. Here again you meet the crowd at the corner, consisting of young lads, or young men, smoking cigars, puffing cigarettes, spitting tobacco, swearing, passing filthy remarks about ladies, and, in general, disturbing the good order that should prevail in a quarter where there are so many stores and such a concourse of citizens. There is not a guardian of order to tell them to "move on," much less to interfere with their obstructions. Nor is it any better on St. Catherine street. The gangs that frequent that section are not quite of as low an order as those you meet on Craig, but they are nonetheless troublesome. Go to the doors of any of our city theatres at night and you will feel uncomfortable, unless you are conscious of having empty pockets. And if you chance to be in a lady's company you are certain to wish that she, for the time being, were both deaf and blind.

**A STRANGE ABSENCE.**—If we were to go the round of the city, into each ward, and to walk all the streets, we would find the same peculiar absence of policemen. I do not say that you could circumambulate the city by night without meeting with one of these gentlemen; but, if you did chance to come upon one, it certainly would not be in quarters where his presence would be most required. Now, what I would like to know is simply this: where do the police keep themselves at night? and what are their duties supposed to be? I take it for granted that if an officer were ordered by his superiors to go to a certain place or to frequent a certain district, that he would do so. Consequently I conclude that you do not meet a policeman because no policeman has received orders to be present. Yet the authorities should know by this time what sections, and what streets of the city are most in need of protection. If they do not they ought to learn it, for it appears to me that such knowledge is elementary in matters of civic guardianship. Again, if they do know what is taking place nightly in certain quarters they can have no excuse for tolerating such a state of affairs. If they have not men enough to cover the ground, they should get more; if they have enough they should see that they do cover that ground and in a sufficiently conspicuous manner to produce a salutary effect.

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 7 Hall Racks, in Elm, golden finish, fitted with 12 x 20 bevelled mirror, 4 double hooks, box seat and brass umbrella pan, \$6.65  
 30 Folding Card Tables, made of Ash, golden finish, size of top 23 x 32 inches.....\$1.75 each

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**Obituary.**  
 It is with sentiments of the deepest sympathy that we are called upon to announce the death of one of the oldest subscribers to the "True Witness," in the person of Michael Cross, whose death occurred at his home in St. Chrysostome, Monday, Nov. 3rd.  
 Whilst Masses were being offered in the different churches throughout the world, for the souls of the faithful departed, his spirit wended its way into eternity. All the assistance that could be rendered by skilled physicians and sorrowful friends, prolonged, but could not save a life that was very dear.  
 A solemn Requiem High Mass was celebrated by his nephew, Rev. J. A. Derome, of Ste. Agnes de Dundee, assisted by Rev. T. Preville, of St. Chrysostome. The funeral, which was very largely attended, showed the esteem in which Mr. Cross was held by all who knew him. For in his death his family are bereft of a kind husband, and loving father, and his neighbors a true and warm-hearted friend.—R.I.P.

**Feasts of the Coming Week.**  
 Apart from the general devotions of this month to the souls in Purgatory, each day is dedicated to a special saint. Many good Catholics are interested in knowing which saint is honored on each particular day; sometimes one learns of a patronal saint whose day might otherwise be overlooked. During the coming week the following are the saints honored by the Church:—  
 On Sunday, 16th November.—St. Edmund of Canterbury and St. Eucher, Bishop of Lyons. On Monday, St. Gregory (Thaumaturge), Bishop. On Tuesday, St. Hilda; and the dedication of the basilicas of St. Peter and of St. Paul. On Wednesday, St. Elizabeth of Hungary and St. Herve—Bishop. On Thursday, St. Felix of Valois and St. Edmund, King and confessor. On Friday, the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin in the temple. On Saturday, St. Cecilia.  
 The man who stands above his fellows must expect to be the target for the envious arrows of their inferiority. It is part of the price he must pay for his advance.

Gardien de la Lecture  
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**NOTES**

**"FREE EDUCATION"**  
 While President Elliot University, is denouncing school system of the because of the increase criminals which its character has produced real "Star" following by the Montreal "Be dozen years ago, is "free education." The thing as "free" education has to pay for somebody in the tax and, indirectly, every land. The "Star," to be expected, makes it by the wild and absurd statements by which its advocacy of "free" The "Star" says in Monday on this subject.  
 "In Montreal we can afford to elementary education. dren here are not given unless their parents a and rich enough to the The initiative is left house may shelter wants to, and can set out into the community gain or prey upon itself. If it were a cious disease, we would house, free of charge, keep it from harming Being only a case of do nothing but provide it can buy a cure—if elination and money nity is compelled to solely for the ripe fance. We keep up a system of goals and a costly machine houses of correction largely for the graduates that are free enough where the untaught ish, hopeless lessons criminal. But a penny would save a pound spent a trifling part schools, we should times over in reduce penses—to say nothing vate losses which st tails. And this is the of appeal. We should richer for living in a prosperous community and poverty inter come is a mass of huclogs enterprise, cons tical and municipal business with bad del devices, sickens many with pity and self-rep erally makes life hardy for the better off. age of education in and that people forge many, the United States are examples of t  
 The writer in the "dently not well postatinal statistics of Ca or the United States fact of secular educa would not imagine th of secular knowledge decrease of crime. Fa the contrary is the c criminal statistics, w with those of Germ United States, show both of these countr al morality of its pe spends so much mor tion to its population education as does th with the result that educationalist as Pre Harvard is forced to has utterly failed to morals of the natio on the admitted failu system of the United