

A HOME RULE DEBATE.

Quite a large audience attended a debate held in Lachine, on last Friday, the subject being Home Rule. The speakers who discussed the question were: Mr. W. A. Weir, B.C.L., of this city, and Col. O'Brien, M.P., Mr. Dalton McCarthy's alter ego. Mr. Weir's speech was an able effort and we have pleasure in stating that in our next issue we will give our readers a report of the address. It is a perfect chain of argument, and the fiery Colonel was unable to destroy one link in it. Mr. Weir's speech, coming from a gentleman of such recognized talent, will certainly prove of deep interest to our readers and all friends of Home Rule. Had we not received the copy too late we would have given it this week.

A LETTER OF THANKS.

Hon. Senator Murphy has just received a letter from Hon. Edward Blake, in which the member for Longford expresses his thanks and the gratitude of the Irish Parliamentary party, to all the friends of the cause in Montreal, who have generously contributed to the fund. Mr. Blake would be glad, as he says, were he able to thank each one individually, but that being impossible, we are requested to state that the subscriptions have been most gratefully received and that the liberality of the donors will not be forgotten by the friends of Ireland.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.

The following gentlemen were appointed to take up the collections for the next three Sundays:—Messrs. Martin Phelan, Patrick Mullin, Michael Fitzgibbon and Patrick Moynagh.

HISTORICAL ART GALLERY.

PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS ITS FORMATION.

The forming of an historical portrait gallery, which has been so long talked about, is now about to take practical shape, for at its meeting last week the Numismatic and Antiquarian society appointed a committee to take preliminary steps in the matter. Mr. A. de Lery Macdonald has for some time been thinking the matter over, and lately he has moved actively in it, with the result that he has already secured some fifteen or sixteen portraits, besides the promise of others. These include Lord Gosford, Major Lennox, Lieut.-Colonel Campbell, Champlain, Lieut.-Col. Bouchette, Chevalier Dumont, Hon. Wm. McGillivray, Archbishop Norman McLeod, James Todd, partner of the Hon. James McGill; General Small; Rev. Father Roux, superior of the Seminary in 1803; Imbert, member of the Supreme Council of Nouvelle France; Archbishop de Lotbiniere, Governor Prevost, Governor Dorchester and Lord Haldimand. As to the ultimate success of the project, Mr. Macdonald is most sanguine.

Last week's meeting of the society, which was presided over by Mr. Justice Baby, was held in the studio of Baron Holmfeldt, Fraser Institute, where the portraits already acquired by Mr. Macdonald for the society were hung. Baron Holmfeldt, whose excellent work as an artist is well known, is, it may be mentioned by the way, at present engaged in painting the portraits of four Canadian celebrities of past times for the Antiquarian society of Chicago.

In laying his ideas before the society, Mr. Macdonald said that for some years he had had the scheme of forming an historical portrait gallery in view; he had worked quietly at it, and he was happy to be in a position to say that the material for creating such a portrait gallery, and also a museum, existed. The portraits which he had already got together, and which were practically donated to the society, were only a very small portion of what had been promised him. Of course, the carrying out of the idea in a practical manner would have to be undertaken by the society. He would ask that a small committee be appointed to start the matter and when they had got some fifty or sixty portraits together, which he felt assured would be by the fall, to turn the whole over to the society. He then read letters from Archbishop Fabre, L'Union Catholique, Mr. J. E. M. Whitney, Mr. Lucien Huot, Mr. de B. Macdonald and Recorder de Montigny, all of whom approved of the scheme and either promised to donate or had already donated portraits to the society. Mr. Macdonald explained that he did not propose to ask people to donate any of their original family portraits, but simply to leave them on deposit with the society, so that the owner of any portrait could have it back whenever he desired. As to what the gallery would consist of, he would suggest that it be classified in the following manner:—Portrait series of the sovereigns of the country, from Francis I. to the present sovereign; the vice-roys; the governors, from Champlain to the present Governor-General; the intendants; the Bishops of Quebec, from Laval down to date; the Bishops of Montreal, and the Anglican Bishops, who, he thought, were located at Quebec. As each dignitary died his portrait would be placed in the gallery, and thus the series would be kept up. He would also suggest that there be groups representing the military heroes of the country, the religious element, the discoverers, and a section representing the history of the Northwest. A second department of the gallery could be a series of paintings representing historical scenes connected with Canadian history; a third department would be a museum, where there would be relics of every description; a fourth department would be a small library, devoted solely to works on Canadian history

and as a depository of Canadian historical documents, whilst a fifth department would be a numismatic collection. As to how the idea of forming the gallery was to be carried out he proposed, if the society adopted the scheme, to send out circulars asking the old families in the country, or persons who might have historical portraits, to donate or loan them to the society; and he knew from conversations which he had with several people that it would be successful. The portraits of celebrities who had left no descendants in this country could be subscribed for by any citizens who desired to present them to the society. As to the maintenance of the gallery, the portraits could be placed in the museum of the Natural History society until the Numismatic and Antiquarian society had a fire-proof building in which to place them. He considered that with the portraits they had already acquired, and those which had been promised, the society had a very good nucleus for a gallery.

On the motion of Mr. A. de Lery Macdonald, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, a committee, consisting of the mover and seconder and Mr. Dorval, with power to add to their number, was appointed to take preliminary steps in the matter.

C.M.B.A.'S BENEFIT.

BRANCH 26 HOLDS A SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC MEETING.

The Glenora Hall was well filled last evening, the occasion being the first of the series of social meetings inaugurated by Branch 26 of the Grand Council of Canada. The regular meeting of the branch was also held and was convened at 7.30 o'clock, President Reynolds occupying the chair. Considerable business was brought before the meeting and was promptly transacted, after which the session was declared closed and the doors were thrown open and the friends and visitors were admitted and heartily welcomed by the officers of the branch. Amongst those present were the Rev. Martin Callaghan, spiritual adviser of the branch; Rev. Father O'Meara, pastor of St. Gabriel's; President Martin, Branch 22; Vice-president Payette, Branch 23; President M. Murphy, Branch 74; President Spedding, Branch 142; President Dandelin, Branch 83; Grand Trustee Tansey, Brothers H. Tansey, Owen Tansey, A. Brogan, N.P.; H. J. Ward, A. D. McGillis, James Milloy, W. J. Delaney, L. E. Simonsen, T. J. Kavanagh, W. A. Corcoran, W. E. Durack, Jas. Callahan, T. R. Stevens, John G. Shea, T. Smalshire, John Kennedy, L. W. McGillis, John Walsh, J. A. Harbenstein, Thos. Fitzgerald, and representatives from city branches, and a large number of visitors and friends and other members of the association.

The proceedings were opened by an address by the president, Mr. Reynolds, who extended a hearty welcome to all present, and explained the object of the meeting, which was chiefly to extend the usefulness of the association. After the address Mr. Frank Feron sang "Come Back to Erin," and was heartily applauded. Master Shea followed with a violin solo, rendered in a most admirable manner. Bro. Wm. P. Doyle recited "Cœur de Lion at the Bier of his Father," which was much appreciated. Mr. C. Gray followed with a concertina solo, and had to respond to an encore.

Grand Deputy Finn was then introduced and delivered a short address on the history of the C. M. B. A. The first branch of the association was founded at Niagara Falls, N.Y. in 1875. The want of such an association had long been felt, and in consequence its progress was rapid. The association had from the outset the warm approval and hearty co-operation of His Lordship Bishop Ryan, of Buffalo, New York, who became the first spiritual adviser and who now holds the position of supreme spiritual adviser. In 1878 the association was introduced into Canada, the first branch being founded at Windsor, Ont. The progress in Canada was also rapid and in 1880 a grand council was instituted with over five hundred members. In November, 1883, the first branch was formed in Quebec, and to Branch 26 belongs the honor of being the parent branch of the province. The speaker detailed many of the good works done by the association since its foundation. The association well deserved the proud place it held in the ranks of Catholic societies. At its head in Canada, as spiritual adviser, is His Grace Archbishop Walsh, of Toronto, and here in this province the association is blessed with the hearty approval, and spiritual guidance of His Grace Archbishop Fabre, the membership is constantly increasing and in its ranks may be found the following: His Grace Archbishop Walsh, of Toronto; His Grace Archbishop O'Brien, of Halifax; His Lordship Bishop O'Connor, of London; His Lordship Bishop Dowling, of Hamilton; His Lordship Bishop O'Connor, of Peterboro, Ont.; His Lordship Bishop Decelles, of St. Hyacinthe; and His Lordship Bishop Emard, of Valleyfield; as well as a large number of priests throughout the Dominion.

A song by Mr. John Young followed, after which, by special request, he gave another violin solo. Mr. L. C. O'Brien recited "Christmas Day in the Poor House" in an excellent manner. Bro. Wm. Palmer sang and was warmly applauded. Chancellor J. E. Morrison was then announced and gave an address on the benefits of the association. He gave, in detail, the sums received by the association, its inception from the membership, and showed that the amount paid in benefits to families and heirs of deceased members amounted to over \$5,000,000. In 1892 Canada was granted separation financially from the United States, and the affairs of the association in Canada are now governed exclusively by the Canada Grand Council. During the course of his address Mr. Morrison showed the advantages to be derived by the married man as also by the unmarried man, from membership in the association from a fraternal point of view; he also gave the figures and cost of membership. Mr. Morrison's address was, on the whole, a most practical and ably delivered effort, and on resuming his seat was most heartily applauded. Mr. W. Trainor gave a comic song and had to respond to a hearty encore. Chancellor John H. Feeley next gave an address on the C. M. B. A. Relief Association, and in the course of his remarks he showed that the Relief Association was doing good as one of the aids of the association. Short addresses were made by Rev. Martin Callaghan, Rev. Father O'Meara and Grand Trustee Tansey.

Rev. Martin Callaghan made a few happy remarks, in the course of which he expressed his great pleasure at being present, and was pleased to hear all that had been said about the association. He especially dwelt upon the figures as given by Mr. Morrison, and stated

that to his mind they should be printed in pamphlet form to show the great advantages that could be derived from membership at so little cost comparatively. The Rev. Father also dwelt upon the programme which had been gone through, and complimented all who had taken part, and especially Master Shea, for the masterly manner in which he rendered his solos on the violin.

Rev. Father O'Meara, on rising to make a few remarks, was most warmly received. He complimented Branch 26 on the success of its first open meeting, which he felt sure could not fail to have the effect of increasing the ranks of the whole association, of which it was a part.

Brother J. J. Costigan moved a vote of thanks to all who had taken part in the meeting; this motion was seconded by Brother A. W. McGillis.

A GRAND BAZAAR

IN AID OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH TO BE HELD IN THE EARLY SUMMER.

Rev. Father Quinnivan, S.S., of St. Patrick's, announced in the pulpit on Sunday that a Bazaar would be held early in June, in order to raise funds to renovate the parish church. He said that the improvements already made in the ornamentation of the sanctuary, the putting in of new pews and floor, as well as new gas fixtures, renovation of the stained glass windows, and repairs to heating apparatus, amounted to about \$10,000. To continue the improvements, namely, frescoing walls and putting up a new iron fence around the church property, etc., it was necessary to procure funds by a bazaar. On Sunday evening, Father McCallien spoke to a large congregation on the same subject, and made some practical suggestions. All the members of the parish, he said, ought to contribute to the success of the bazaar, even at some little personal sacrifice. If during the month of May the twelve hundred young men of the parish would forego but one cigar a day, and place in an envelope, marked "Bazaar Fund," the amount of said sacrifice, it would mean by June 1st \$1.25 for each or a total of \$1500. If the fifteen hundred young ladies of the parish would sacrifice a ribbon more or less to variety, or a yard of dress goods, they might add to the fund, by the first of June, \$1800 more. So likewise the children, by putting their little savings in a money-box, could contribute a few extra hundred dollars. It was for God's glory and the adornment of His dwelling-place on earth these sacrifices would be made, and God in turn would bless the donors a hundredfold. A general meeting of the ladies of the parish will be held at 2.30 p. m. to-day to plan details of the bazaar.

A SPLENDID CONCERT

BY THE DIFFERENT SOCIETIES OF THE ST. GABRIEL'S PARISH.

The concert given by the United Societies of St. Gabriel's parish, on Friday evening, April 20th, was a great success, the new parish church being literally packed. Rev. Father O'Meara presided and addressed the audience in a few very appropriate words. The programme, which had been carefully prepared, was an excellent one. The vocalists were: Misses Herbert, Perkins, McVey, O'Byrne, Leahy; Messrs. Ellis, Quinn, Murray, Murphy, and Morgan, with Miss O'Byrne and P. Shea, as accompanists. The instrumental trio, (violin, cornet and piano), by Miss Nettle, Master J. and Mr. J. S. Shea, was exceptionally fine. One of the features of the evening was a chorus by the members of St. Gabriel's choir. The fancy drills by the pupils of St. Gabriel's Convent were heartily applauded; also the singing and dancing of Miss Kitts, Messrs. Rappell, Sullivan and Colligan. During the evening St. Gabriel's life and drum band gave several selections. The programme, though long, was interesting and pleasing to the large audience. The attendance indicated the popularity of the societies, and the esteem in which the indefatigable pastor, Rev. Father O'Meara, is held by his parishioners.

We might also mention that public thanks are due to Messrs. P. Shea, J. Morgan, M. Mullarkey, Wm. Murphy, Ed. Quinn, Ed. Finn and Jas. Murphy, for the generous and able manner in which they have aided, not only this occasion, but on countless others in the cause of charity and religion.

ST. MARY'S CALENDAR.

The May number of St. Mary's Church Calendar is about to appear, and it contains a fund of most interesting and important information. Amongst other items will be noticed a sketch of His Grace Archbishop Fabre, and a portrait of the venerable and universally beloved head of the Church in this district. The 1st May will be the 21st anniversary of His Grace's episcopal consecration. The event, as we already have announced, will be celebrated in the new Cathedral, St. Mary's Church Calendar takes advantage of the occasion to pay a worthy tribute to the great and good man who rules over the pastors of souls in this diocese.

THE REV. W. J. WALKER'S PRAYER.

Vandœuvre, Jackson Co., Miss.

DR. R. V. PIERCE: Dear Sir—I wish to inform you of the benefit my wife has received from the use of your medicines. I must say that your "Favorite Prescription" is the best female regulator on earth; my wife has been cured by the timely use of it. I have been using the "Golden Medical Discovery," and "Pleasant Pellets," and I am fully satisfied they are all you claim them to be; so, wishing you abundant success, and hoping that the Almighty God will continue His blessings toward you in your noble work, I am, Respectfully, W. J. WALKER.



REV. W. J. WALKER.

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A new line of Women's Striped Cotton Hose, with black feet, only 25c a pair.
Ladies' Tan Cashmere Hose, from 45 cents upwards.

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Men's Cotton Socks, good quality, 10c a pair.

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A PROTESTANT FRIEND.

(The following letter was handed us, for publication, by one of the leading Protestant citizens of Montreal. We have no comment to make upon it. It speaks for itself. Yet, we feel it a duty to thank the gentleman who wrote it for his candid and kind expressions. We can return the compliment and say that such men as our Protestant "Well-wisher" are the hope of this country. They are animated with that Christian spirit which alone can create harmony, prosperity and happiness in this land.—Ed. T. W.)

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

SIR,—Although not a Roman Catholic, but a Protestant, I have been for many years a constant and much interested reader of THE TRUE WITNESS. Its ably-written editorials are a source from which I have gathered much information which has enabled me, to a large extent, to understand the meaning of true religion. I have never read in its columns anything to cause me to regret that THE TRUE WITNESS is a constant visitor at my house. It is a companion I heartily welcome and I trust, before long, we will see THE TRUE WITNESS every day. The stand it has taken on temperance matters, the efforts it makes to suppress immorality, and its general religious tone, make it a paper that should be read by men, women and children. I am the father of a grown-up family, and I know of no better reading matter to recommend to my sons and daughters than that found in THE TRUE WITNESS; for I know, if they follow its teachings, they will be temperance people and true Christians.

A WELL-WISHER.

CONEY'S ARMY.

WASHINGTON EXPECTS THEM—STILL THEY "GO MARCHING ON."

NEW YORK, April 23.—A special meeting under the auspices of the people's party in their new established headquarters at 50 East 10th street was held to-night to receive General J. B. Coxey. At 8.30 o'clock Coxey came in, his face wreathed in expansive smiles. He addressed the meeting at length explaining his system of political economy. In concluding he said:—"Those Washington people are criticizing us for taking people to Washington to starve. I guess they can starve there just as well as in Ohio or New York. If enough of them die there the sink will be so great that they will grant what we ask to get rid of us. You see we can hit them in a great many ways."

Gen. Coxey to-day called on Commissioner Farmer, of the Associated Trunk Lines, with a request for cheap transportation to Washington over the railroads to all who desired to go in sympathy with his movement. Mr. Farmer said he would lay the matter before the executive committee on Wednesday. The General then went up town to witness the sale of his horses. He will return to his army this evening. Coxey made the following declaration to-day:—"When we get to Washington we do not propose to be repulsed by a presidential or congressional frown. We shall sit down there and wait until the people awake and discover that our demands are just."