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**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.

SATURDAY.....DECEMBER 18, 1897

**ENGLISH-SPEAKING CATHOLICS AND THE CENSUS.**

We are glad to be able to state that we have received many letters endorsing the suggestion which we recently made in regard to the separate classification of English-speaking Catholics in the next Dominion census. Most of our correspondents based their endorsement of our course upon the hazardous guess which Fire Chief Benoit made, in his recent interview with the Daily Witness, at the proportion we form of the total population of the city of Montreal, and his statement of the number of positions in the Fire Brigade to which English-speaking Catholics were entitled, on his erroneous computation of the number. But the question has a deeper meaning than this. It is not only in respect of positions in the Fire Brigade that we suffer, on account of our numerical strength not being shown in the census—although, as we have already proved, we have just cause for complaint on that ground, since Protestants, whom we outnumber, have twice as many captains and twice as many engineers (up to last week they had three times as many engineers) as we have in the brigade. It is in municipal and other public affairs; in educational matters, as will be seen from another article; in social and commercial matters, that we are suffering most seriously. Population is the basis of representation, of influence, of prestige; and as long as, in the Dominion census, we are included with and lost among our French-Canadian brethren in the faith we shall continue to be treated as we have been treated during recent years, as a *quantité négligeable*—a class of citizens of no consequence, whom it is needless to reckon with, and safe to ignore.

While for these and other reasons it is advisable that English speaking Catholics should be classified apart from French-speaking Catholics, there can be no objection, so far as we know, urged to the contrary. Let us take a glance at the table of religions as it now stands in the census. "Roman Catholics" have one column, Protestant sects have no fewer than nineteen columns, "other denominations," one, and even non-descripts—"not specified"—have another. The Presbyterians, who are mostly Scotch, have three columns, enumerating different sub-sects; the Methodists, mostly Irish, have four columns; the Baptists, of whom a large number are Americans, are given three columns. In Montreal the English speaking Catholics, who number 50,000, have no column at all set apart for them; while the Disciples, who, like the children in Wordsworth's poem, "are seven," and the Quakers, who number only five, have each a separate column to themselves. It is the same with the Universalists (18), the Adventists (42), the Salvation Army (84), and the Protestants (334), unqualified and par excellence, we presume; each sect has its own column. Why should not the Catholics, the largest religious body in the country, have two columns, thus: "Catholics, French-speaking," and "Catholics, English-speaking?"

**TWO IRISH CATHOLIC TRIUMPHS.**

The great victories which the Catholics have won in the municipal contests in Belfast and the School Board elections in London show what can be done by unity and hard work; and they constitute a valuable object lesson for our people in Montreal. For the first time in its history, Belfast has a Catholic—and no fewer than eight Catholics at that—in its City Council. Taking advantage of the Municipal Extension Act, which went into effect last year, the Catholic Association of Belfast, with the Catholic Bishop and priests at its head, nominated eight candidates, and in the face of exceptional difficulties secured their election by good majorities. Like practical and determined men, they had long prepared for the struggle. They had paid close attention to the registra-

tion of Catholic voters on the municipal lists; they had chosen good candidates; they had made house-to-house canvasses; they had worked night and day to overthrow Orange ascendancy and win a victory for religious freedom. And they succeeded splendidly.

In London the battle was also between intolerant Protestants and two Irish Catholics—one a priest, Father Brown, to whose gallant fight we alluded a few weeks ago; and the other a Catholic layman, Mr. Costelloe. They were the only two Catholic candidates for membership of the London School Board, on which no Catholic has hitherto been able to secure a seat. Both have been elected by substantial majorities. It should be mentioned that three Irish Nationalist members of parliament threw themselves into the thick of the fight—Messrs. Knox, O'Connor and Molloy, the first named, a Protestant himself, doing yeoman service for both candidates as a champion for liberty of conscience. As an Irish contemporary puts it, these victories "demonstrate to the world that the Irish Catholic in Ireland and out of it is true to his faith, and able to uphold it against opposition of every kind and character."

We feel certain that if the English-speaking Catholics of Montreal were aroused to action by a persecution such as that from which their Belfast co-religionists have suffered for generations, they would imitate their example; but they are being steadily, quietly, and silently, but none the less effectively, pushed to the background, and this explains their lack of activity and aggressiveness. Is it not time, however, that they realized that persecution is not the less real because it is insidious in its methods and slow in its operation?

**AN ENGLISH SPEAKING SCHOOL INSPECTOR WANTED.**

The fact that the series of lectures at present being delivered to the convention of Catholic teachers in this city by the District Inspector of Catholic schools are in French only, is another of the many grievances of which the English speaking Catholics of Montreal have reason to complain. Several of the teachers are not familiar with the French language, and thus fail to receive any benefit whatever from the lectures. This is obviously an unfair discrimination against the English speaking children in attendance at English speaking Catholic schools, whose parents contribute as much, proportionately, for the education of their children as the French Canadian parents pay for theirs.

There is but one way in which friction and dissatisfaction on this point can be permanently removed; and that is by the appointment of an English-speaking District Inspector for those schools of Montreal which are attended mainly or exclusively by English-speaking Catholic children. The number of these children is sufficiently large to justify the appointment of such an inspector. It is to be hoped that steps will at once be taken to bring the subject to the attention of the Council of Public Instruction or of the new Minister of Education whom the government has promised to appoint.

Since writing the above, we have been informed that invitations have been issued to the English-speaking Catholic teachers that a lecture would be delivered, in the English language, this afternoon, by Inspector McGown. This is as it should be, but we are still of the opinion that an English-speaking Inspector should be appointed for Montreal.

**A MAGNIFICENT OPPORTUNITY.**

The forthcoming municipal elections will present to the members of St. Patrick's League a magnificent opportunity of putting into actual practice the principles on which their organization is based. In some of the wards which were formerly represented by English-speaking Catholics, candidates of the same description will be now brought forward once again; and as they stand excellent chances of being elected if they are placed in nomination, provided only a united and determined effort is made by the members of the League to serve their success, it is to be sincerely hoped that that effort will not be lacking.

Two practical points should be borne in mind in this connection. In the first place, it should be remembered that it is in the municipal field that the initial battle for still greater honors and advantages is to be fought.

The position of alderman is a step ping-stone to a higher and a more responsible public post; and those who succeed in the contest for membership of the City Council can therefore look forward with legitimate ambition to a renewal of the confidence reposed in them by their constituents when they enter upon larger and more important struggles for public favor. In the second place those who sincerely desire to be represented in the City Council by men who are their co-religionists ought to realize that it is only by hard and unremitting and unselfish work, both individually and collectively, that they can attain the object they have in view.

They should exhibit no timidity or tendency to wait until an election has been subscribed, no desire to permit personal or political preferences to influence them, no doubtfulness as to the ultimate result of their well directed and energetic endeavors. Each man should take off his coat and put his shoulder to the wheel, so to speak, with a firm resolve to reach the end in view.

It is unnecessary to repeat the reasons which render it necessary for us to enter upon this municipal struggle with a militant spirit not hitherto manifested, to recall the ground we have lost through our lack of vigorous and combined action, or the open insults that have been heaped upon us through the same cause. The time has come to demand, and to insist upon, our rights. We ask for nothing more, and we shall accept nothing less.

**OCEAN RACING.**

An ocean race is said to be now in progress from Halifax to Liverpool, between the Allan-liner Parisian and the R. M. S. Gallia of the Beaver Line. The Parisian had a fifteen minutes' lead, and those who know her record will have little hesitation in backing her not only to hold, but to improve it, and this, too, in the face of the report that they were met when a day out, the Gallia being three miles in front. While this sort of thing may have its interest in steamship and sporting circles it is essentially reprehensible in the eyes of the traveling public, and all who place safety before every other consideration will join in condemning it. The practice of allowing passenger ships to engage in racing trips at any season of the year is fraught with great risk and danger to human life, and should be frowned down, but the idea of thus tempting the winter seas of the North Atlantic is little short of madness. In this period of storms and bergs most people are timid enough about facing a sea voyage under any circumstances, but to start out with the intention and determination to maintain high-pressure through fogs, showers, drift ice or icebergs, and to make a "record run" at all hazards, is a dangerous practice. Many will remember the celebrated race which took place some years ago between two steamers representing respectively the Cunard and the Collins line. The course was from New York to Liverpool, which port the Cunard boat reached in safety, while the Collins-liner was never heard of. The event was duly recorded in verse, characteristic of the period, and was set to the then popular air of "Dixie's Land" in the following lines: "Cunard and the Collins line, they both had a race; For Liverpool they started out according; Cunard came out ahead and Collins gave up the chase, And he landed on the t'other side de Jordan."

It is to be hoped that in this case these rival ocean greyhounds will both reach the Mersey in safety without loss of a rope much less of life, at the same time public opinion condemns the practice in the interest of the passenger world.

**LIQUOR LAW REFORM NEEDED.**

It is all very well for the Recorder to deliver a homily from the bench on the dangers which arise from drunkenness in this city. Why does he not take steps to put into effect the law regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors. He knows as well as we do that a large number of saloons and restaurants sell liquor illegally on Sundays, thus holding out to citizens a strong temptation—to which very many of them succumb—to stay away from Mass, to squander their evenings, and to neglect their homes and families. He knows, too, that these liquor sellers are often fined, merely as a matter of form, the fines being remitted afterwards for political or other reasons. The Recorder is aware, moreover, that liquor licenses are granted year after year to persons who are unfit to be entrusted with them.

The delegation of liquor-sellers who recently went to Quebec to lay their alleged grievances before the Government, asked for one much needed change in the law, but omitted to ask for another equally much-needed reform. They requested that persons guilty of selling liquor without a license should be fined \$200 for the first offence, and should be sent to jail without the option of a fine for the second. That would be a change in the right direction. Another would be the provision of a similar punishment for those licensed liquor sellers, both in saloons and so-called hotels, who break the law Sunday after Sunday throughout the year. Many of the men who are agitating for changes in the liquor law sell illicitly on Sundays; some of them do more business on that day than throughout the remaining six days put together.

By all means let the liquor law be changed in these two important points.

**MR. BLAKE'S RETURN TO CANADA.**

Knowing that he is not only a man of consummate ability and a great Irish Canadian, but a man of high purpose and unselfish devotion to any cause which he espouses, we have studiously refrained from giving publicity to the false and malicious rumors and the bitter personal attacks of which the Hon. Edward Blake has been the object since in a recent speech he expressed a hope that the course of events in the British Parliament would enable him some day to return to Canada and make it his abiding place. It was only personal or political malevolence that could interpret this natural and patriotic desire, as evidencing an intention on his part to desert the cause of Home Rule for the land of his forefathers. The sacrifices which Mr. Blake has made in placing his splendid abilities at the disposal of the Irish National Party, like the services which he has already rendered to that cause, have been great and genuine; and no better proof of his loyalty to the interests of Ireland could be offered than the confidence reposed in him by his Nationalist colleagues, and the high esteem in which they hold him. If any further testimony were needed it would be furnished in the following characteristic appeal which he recently addressed to a leading Toronto journal, and which we gladly reproduce because of its opportuneness:

Will you allow me to trespass on your columns, always sympathetic with our cause, by a brief appeal to Canadian friends of Home Rule for Ireland?

The interests of that cause demand a full attendance and an active campaign next session, which will be an Irish session, involving the great questions of county government and Imperial taxation. These and other matters will bring and keep Ireland to the front, and must, whether in our immediate efforts we succeed or fail, promote our capital object, the constitutional control by the Irish people of their local affairs.

The great race convention, proposed by a most distinguished Irish-Canadian, and attended by many of our best men with such credit to themselves and advantage to the cause, has produced marked results. The Irish Nationalist party, acting on its mandate, has pursued a course at once firm and conciliatory, and has with persevering patience sought on every occasion to reunite the national forces. Much has been accomplished, several marked instances of co-operation have occurred, the most influential member of Mr. Redmond's party has declared, and is with great effect working for unity, the masses of the people are earnestly desirous to join hands; and I cannot believe that a few individuals will much longer succeed in keeping them apart.

But the unhappy results of the past disunion must meanwhile be faced; and it will take time to complete the operation, to repair our losses, to restore the vigor of our organizations and to re-establish our financial system. This year we have on foot in Ireland an evicted tenants' collection; and the unhappy country is threatened once again with distress next door to famine.

We have attempted to meet the emergency by reducing to the very lowest limit the sale of our political expenditure. The members' indemnity for our long session has been cut down to £120, little over half the Canadian figure, and every other practicable economy has been effected, with a view to bridge the gap.

But to achieve this end, so vital to the constitutional movement, help is needed; and I, therefore, venture this personal appeal to my Irish Canadian fellow-countrymen to associate themselves with me in a renewal of those proofs of loyalty to the cause which have distinguished them in the past. In cases in which no local committees or organizations may be available it will give me pleasure to enter into correspondence with friends and to take charge of subscriptions.

Could any appeal be more eloquent, more cogent, or more persuasive? We hope that it will meet with the response that the cause for which he pleads so eminently deserves.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

No woman really believes that men are half as bad as they are painted.

"The Westminster Confession of Faith" is like a canvass imitation of the sky and its usefulness is, when compared with the original, of even less value.

Now the young man who expended all his spare cash for a bicycle wishes that he had it back again, in order that he might buy himself a nice fur coat. But—

ALL those who have faithfully attended the various missions are now in accord with the spirit of the season, and to them Christmas means something more than a day on which to eat plum pudding.

As instancing the modern appliance, up-to-date character of the London Fire System, the evidence of Lieutenant Wells, R. M., the high salaried, high-toned Chief of the Metropolitan Brigade was interesting. He said chemical engines were not used at the late fire, and defended the fact by saying that he had been at New York and had not seen any such there. To his ignorance of the existence of Chemical engines in New York he added the statement that he had never seen a water-tower, and

knowing that he is not only a man of consummate ability and a great Irish Canadian, but a man of high purpose and unselfish devotion to any cause which he espouses, we have studiously refrained from giving publicity to the false and malicious rumors and the bitter personal attacks of which the Hon. Edward Blake has been the object since in a recent speech he expressed a hope that the course of events in the British Parliament would enable him some day to return to Canada and make it his abiding place.

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amount of cigars used in the consumption of the same. In 1887 the consumption of some people amounted to 1,825,287, and in the past revenue year the amount used jumped to 5,046,208,770, which means that on the average every member of the smoking population used about 500 cigarettes. According to the report there has been quite a large increase in the use of snuff. In 1887 8,168,609 pounds were used and last year, 18,266,640 pounds represented the consumption. The increase in tobacco has also been quite large. The total in 1887 was 218,181,857 pounds and last year 260,784,812 pounds. Of this 153,397,907 was plug, 11,761,690, was fine cut and 83,258,984 pounds was smoking tobacco. All of which goes to show that the smoker is a power in the land.

Just how well the A.P.A. is beloved by the sensible people of the United States may be learned by the following extract from the New York Times:

Attorney General McKenna may have been a bit discouraged when many prominent judges and lawyers of his own State openly and earnestly opposed his elevation to the Supreme Court bench, but of course his apprehensions have disappeared, now that the A.P.A. has been kind enough to protest against his appointment. This organization has great power over public opinion, and its enmity is most valuable. A candidate who can secure a good strong expression of that enmity is practically sure of getting what he wants, unless his ambition turns toward an office in some backwoods place where ignorance and prejudice flourish unmolested by common sense or education. It is not quite logical to give a man something because the A.P.A. dislikes him, but the impulse to do so is very strong.

**DEAF MUTES,**

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE PROVIDENCE NUNS, GIVE AN ENTERTAINMENT TO THE LADY PATRONESSES OF THE RECENT BAZAAR.

A very charming little entertainment was given on the evening of the 9th December, in the hall of the Institute, by the deaf mutes under the care of the Sisters of Providence in St. Denis street. It was in gratitude to the Lady Patronesses for their efforts during the Bazaar, and was most touching. In fact, the addresses made by these afflicted creatures and the prayer which they offered up in their newly acquired speech for their benefactors, drew tears from many eyes. It is so noble a charity, and every one who helps it in any way seems to feel so fully repaid by the veritable transformation of mere animals into soulful human beings. An illustration of the two-fold method of instruction was followed with much interest and those present realized, perhaps, a little of the infinite toil and patience required by the Sisters to produce the happy results seen. The tableaux, especially that of St. Elizabeth giving charity, were effective—the Abbé de l'Epée, first benefactor of these afflicted ones, appeared at the side of the group. Another charming feature was the gymnastic cadenced exercises of a number of tightly clad little ones, who appeared to keep perfect time to the music, not a note of which they heard.

Altogether it was a delightful little soiree and of the large audience present not one regretted, I am sure, having contributed their mite, and so gained a share in that simple, touching gratitude and that prayer, which must be so powerful above for all who had been their benefactors.

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

The regular monthly meeting of the St. Patrick's Total Abstinence and Benefit Society was held Sunday afternoon, December 12th. Owing to the closing of the young ladies' Mission, the usual religious exercises were dispensed with. The pledge was administered by the Rev. J. A. McCallen, S.S., Rev. President of the Society, to twelve persons, all of whom joined the ranks of the Society. Mr. John Walsh presided at the meeting held subsequently. In response to a circular which was distributed amongst the boys during their Mission, to join the society, quite a number were present ranging in age from ten to fourteen years and were, during the course of the meeting, enrolled on the books of the Society.

On Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock there will be a meeting in the hall for any others who may wish to join the society. The annual meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday evening, December 21st, at 8 p.m., when the various reports of the officers will be presented and the election of officers will take place.

The Fathers of the Society of Jesus have begun the direction of the splendid Seminary at Anagni, to be called the Leonine Institute, with which the generosity of Leo XIII. has endowed the Cathedral of the diocese in which he was born. The building is vast and imposing and provided with every necessary down to such details as gas and electric light.

The health of His Holiness is a matter in which the whole Catholic world is so much interested that his slightest ailments are treated as matters sufficiently serious to circulate through every available medium. Recently a statement went forth that he was seriously indisposed. This was a gross exaggeration of fact, originating probably from the circumstance that on the previous day, Friday, His Holiness had commanded the usual "anticamera" as it is called, meaning the attendance of the high dignitaries, or Bussolanti, of the Pope's household, to each of whom is assigned charge of one of the many ante-chambers. On that same afternoon His Holiness held his usual audience and appeared in his usual health. This is the whole story upon which the alarming reports in the press of Europe were founded.