

NOTES FROM OTTAWA.

The Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, on the Montreal Road, at the eastern extremity of the city is fast becoming a notable shrine of Pilgrimage. In order to increase the devotion to the Blessed Mother of God, His Grace the Archbishop has issued a Pastoral letter establishing a Confraternity whose aim will be the practical following the example of our Lady, and the doing of all things with her, and through her. The Blessed de Montford, the founder of the Company of Mary, the priests of which Order have charge of the Church, wrote strongly towards the end of the last century in this direction. The Children of Mary of the parish of Our Lady Immaculate (Basilica) presented a beautiful banner to the shrine recently.

The work on the addition to Rideau street Convent will commence in June.

To allow of a meeting of the proposed Total Abstinence Society, at half past seven o'clock, the usual evening service in St. Patrick's was, on Low Sunday, advanced to three in the afternoon. The meeting was a very large one, and augured well for the success of the new organization. The Hon. John Costigan, P.C., M.P., was called to the chair, and after full discussion, a committee to draft a constitution was appointed, consisting of Hon. Mr. Costigan, (chairman) Messrs. Chas. Murphy (secretary), Robt. Gorman, John O'Meara, John Kilgallon, M. H. O'Connor, T. E. O'Reilly, and John Gorman. The officers of the society will be elected on the 16th instant.

Universal regret was expressed when the news of the death of the esteemed pastor of St. Francis de Sales, Gatineau Point, Rev. Isidore Champagne, was announced. He went to his reward shortly before midnight on the first Friday of the month. He had been nigh twenty-four years in the priesthood.

About eleven hundred communicants

approached the Holy Table in the Basilica on Easter morning.

A concert in aid of charity will be given in Harmony Hall, shortly, by the ladies of St. Mary's Parish and their friends.

The ladies executive of the forthcoming bazaar in aid of St. Bridget's Church is composed of Mrs. James Lundy, Pres.; Miss Taillon, sec.-treas; Mesdames Bingham, O'Reilly, McDougall, Sims, Lyons, Walsh, O'Farrell, Terrance, and Stringer, chaperones.

Rev. Father McPhail, C.S.S.R., delivered a lecture before the McPhail Total Abstinence Society of St. Mary's, which now numbers about 80 members.

It is said that a division of St. Patrick's Parish, will shortly take place, involving the erection of a new church, and also a new separate school house, in the southern portion of the city.

A new chapel is to be built at Harrington, Argenteuil Co.

Rev. Father Niles, O.M.I., who has been indisposed in the Catholic General Hospital, is recovering.

At the Precious Blood Monastery, Elm Bank, the Quarant Eve commenced on Low Sunday and closed on Tuesday.

The blessing and inauguration of a statue of the Patron Saint which will be placed over the main entrance of St. Joseph's Orphanage, will take place on St. George's Day. It is the donation of St. Joseph's Union.

Chute-a-Blondeau is to have a new presbytery.

The electric light system in St. Joseph's Church, suddenly ceased to act on the night of Easter Day. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament had just commenced, when, without warning, complete darkness excepting that thrown by the candles on the

Altar, ensued. The organist continued to play, and after a short time other lights were substituted, and all went well.

During the year a sum of about \$300 has been deposited in the "St. Anthony's Bread" box in the church of St. Francis of Assisi.

Fourteen young souls will enjoy the happiest day of their lives when, on the 10th of May, they will receive

for the first time, the Bread of Angels, in the chapel of their "convent home," Gloucester street.

The St. Charles Home for the aged, will be opened on Water street in the near future.

Death has deprived Very Rev. Canon Beauchamps of his father. The Rev. gentleman, accompanied by Canon Plante, attended the funeral at Vanrems.

Something About Pictures.

From a Regular Contributor.

Last week in a chance conversation with a gentleman in this city, we were forcibly impressed by some of his remarks concerning pictures, statues, images and other representations in the Catholic Church. To what denomination of Protestantism the gentleman belongs we are not positive, but judging from the tone of his remarks we would say he was an Anglican of High-Church, or Ritualistic leanings. Be that as it may, amongst other things, he said:—"Nothing seems more stupid and illogical to my mind, than to hear educated men ridiculing and scoffing at the Catholic practice of employing images to represent saints, angels, our Lord, and scenes in the life of the Saviour. The same men will go into their pulpits and preach, let us say upon the passion and sufferings of Christ. What are they attempting to do? Merely, by means of words and well chosen language, to inspire upon the minds of their hearers vivid pictures of the scenes they describe, or to convey ideas of Christ and His surroundings by means of the imagination. Now this may be highly satisfactory when the hearers have trained minds; but does it not stand to reason, that for the masses of the people, a single picture, or a series of them—such as your stations of the Cross—must convey more lasting impressions and enable them to better grasp the idea of that Passion, than only mental image conjured up by verbal explanations.

Then, again, when, in addition to your images you have the spoken description, there is as much difference for the ordinary individual as there would be between a spoken lecture, and one accompanied by limelight scenes illustrative of the speaker's words. All this stuff, about adoring images, about Roman idolatry, is merely disgusting to any sane man."

These words of an educated and totally unprejudiced gentleman suggest a few remarks concerning the matter of pictures—not exactly in churches, but in our Catholic households. Time was, and not long since, when no Catholic home—no matter how humble—had not a certain number and a certain class of pictures upon its walls. There were the Sacred Heart, the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph, St. Patrick, St. John the Baptist, or some other patron saint; there were pictures illustrative of the Sacraments; mementos of first communions, engravings of the Holy Fathers, representations of the local Archbishops, or Bishops, there were also pictures of Father Matthew, Father Tom Burke, and other famous priests. We do not say that all of these were to be found in each house; but some of them, and above all the principal ones, were to be seen upon the walls.

Then, amongst Irish Catholics these were always representations of the great Irishmen of the past; O'Con-

nell, Emmett, Grattan; of the men of more recent times, such as a group of the Irish Parliamentary Party in Parnell's day, or of the men of '48.

The religious pictures above referred to were and ever should be indispensable, especially where there are children to form, young minds to cultivate, youthful souls to train. The patriotic images, in another sphere, have played an important part in perpetuating a love of the Old Land, and a knowledge of her history. It is so be regretted that, the many cases, these old pictures have disappeared, and have been succeeded by useless chromos, cheap and uninteresting, as well as meaningless scenes, more or less artistic and not at all suggestive of higher or ennobling thoughts.

We trust that the new-fangled ideas of modernism will not obtain in the homes of our readers. There is nothing to be ashamed of in those silent evidences of our faith and our nationality. Rather does the shame consist in the weak and miserable spirit that seeks to obliterate from before the eyes of the young the evidences of their parents' religion and nationality. It is wonderful what influences—either for good or evil—depend upon the apparent slight matters. But life is made up of details and little things; and if these are carefully watched and studied, the results will be seen in the larger and more universally important affairs of existence.

NEW INVENTIONS.

Below will be found the report of patents recently granted to inventors by the Canadian Government. This report is prepared especially for this paper by Messrs. Marion & Marion, Solicitors of patents and experts, New York Life Building, Montreal.

62913. Robert Sparrow, Vancouver, B. C., improvement in sluice boxes.

62918. Arthur Gillespy Smith, Winchester, Ont., composition of matter to be used as a medicine for the cure of piles.

62920. Horatio Fred. Forrest, Brandon, Man., improvement in telephone desk and registers.

62921. Henry Aylmer, Richmond, P. Q., drills.

62938. Alex. Lumsden, McLaren, Sarnia, Ont., improvement in needle threaders.

62934. Francis Alexander Cote, Ottawa, Ont., mode and apparatus for locating concealed live electric wires in floors, ceilings, walls, etc.

62938. Geo. Robbins & Geo. Musgrove, Stonewall, Man., improvement in pump rod coupling.

62939. Geo. Stagg, Toronto, Ont., improvements in bung cutting and forming machine.

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