

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
The True Witness Printing & Publishing Co.
(LIMITED)
At 255 St. James Street, Montreal, Canada.
P. O. Box 4138.

MS. and all other communications intended for publication or notice, should be addressed to the Editor, and all business and other communications to the Managing Director, The True Witness P. & P. Co., Ltd., P. O. Box 1138.
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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1895.

Free to Jan. 1, 1896.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

JUSTIN MCCARTHY has just written a first article for the Cork Magazine, which was started by his father. The Irish leader is evidently of literary stock.

SCHLATTER, the supposed miracle worker, can find thousands to believe in him; many of these credulous folks do not wish to believe in the wonders worked by Christ.

CARDINAL BONAPARTE, grand nephew of the First Napoleon, died the week before last in Rome. He was one of the most hard-working and humble members of the Sacred College.

THE Western Watchman says: "The daily paper for the politicians and advertisers; the weekly for the people who think." Let all thinking people subscribe to a good weekly.

A. P. A. RANTERS want Catholic converts open to inspection. Let them begin by asking the Episcopalian sisterhoods to submit to the same inspection and see what a reply they will get.

CERTAIN Italianissimi have sent some of Mazzini's pamphlets to the Vatican, hoping the Pope might read them. As well send a series of dime novels. The Pope has too many serious occupations to bother with Mazzini and his thrash.

ALL the Protestant ministers of Cleveland, Ohio, are co-operating with the Catholic priests of the place in the anti-saloon league. We would like to see a little more harmony of action, of that class, in this part of the world.

ARCHBISHOP IRELAND says: "It is not the man who sits by his fireside reading the paper and criticizing the government who is the best citizen, but one who goes out in the hurly-burly of the caucus and there faces his fellow-men." True.

MAX O'RELL says that in the streets of Buda-Pesth and in the drawing-rooms of Dublin he found the best and most beautiful types of womanhood. He could have said the same of every Irish village in the island if he had only visited them.

Is the Catholic cathedral of Tokio, Japan, the wife of the Hungarian Charge d'Affaires, Count Heinrich Coudenhove, a Japanese lady, was publicly baptized by His Grace Mgr. Gault, Archbishop of Tokio. The ceremony attracted great attention.

THE Boston Daily Standard, an A.P.A. organ, says:—"The Roman Catholic Church is not like any other religious organization on our soil." Of course not. The Church of Rome is a Divinely founded institution—the others are human organizations.

DURING the course of his allocution, at the secret consistory, on last Friday, the Holy Father referred to the gravity of the

Turkish situation and said that the Holy See was desirous to see the various peoples of the Ottoman Empire governed by principles of equality and equity. So is it ever. The grand characterizing principle of Catholicity, "love thine enemies," is ever exemplified in Leo's life. Even the Turk he would not see unjustly treated.

CARDINAL KOPP, prince-Bishop, has dedicated the fourth Catholic Church in Berlin. At least six more churches are needed to meet the requirements of the Catholics in that one city. Strange that so many members of the faith should be without a place of worship.

We predicted a week ago that the course adopted by Russia regarding her Black Sea fleet was a sure sign that the war cloud over Europe—at least over Turkey in Europe—was soon to burst. Matters seem to drift with daily increasing rapidity in that fatal direction.

EDWARD FRANCIS JOSEPH TAAFFE, ex-Premier of Austria, is dead. He was another of those descendants of the Irish race who won glory for themselves and built up the powers of foreign countries. He was to Austria what O'Donnell was to Spain and MacMahon to France. Great indeed are the scattered children of Erin's race!

MISS LOUISE IMAGEN GUINEY has just completed a six months' walking tour in rural England. Her companion was Miss Alice Brown, who wrote "Meadow Grass." Miss Guiney is called "the beautiful Catholic poetess." Such a trip must add not only to her beauty, but also to that of her poetry.

MR. GREENWAY intends to stand by his policy on the school question. It may be a very brave thing, in the eyes of some people, to bully the minority; but probably, Mr. Greenway and his Government will live to see the results of their fatal error. Whether they will repent, or not, is another question.

THE enemies of the Pope—the Italianissimi Publicists—declare that "His Holiness may willingly go to Avignon;" but they add: "He cannot possibly think ever to return even if helped by foreign armies." Poor fools! One would think the Pope depended on them for advice in guiding his actions.

It appears that capitalists interested in the Dominion Coal Company, Halifax Electric Tramway Company and the Consumers' Gas Company of Halifax propose to revolutionize the method of supplying gas for lighting and heating purposes. Some kind of a gas revolution would be quite acceptable in Montreal.

MGR. LENTE, Patriarch of Constantinople, and Vice-Gerent of Rome, died at Frascati. He was born in Rome, on the 13th December, 1824. He taught theology at the Roman Seminary. In 1867 he was appointed Bishop of Nepi and Sutri; in 1876 titular Archbishop and Vice-Gerent of Rome; and in 1887 Patriarch of Constantinople. Many are the great churchmen that this year has seen depart.

PREMIER CRISPI is a fine fellow. No wonder that he has run Italy into bankruptcy: a man who cannot regulate his own affairs has a pretty fair show of ruining a country when he is placed at the helm. Last week the firm of Gazziati, in Rome, obtained a judgment against Premier Crispi compelling him to pay 120,000 lire for furniture and carpets ordered by him.

THE American Ambassador Bayard received the freedom of the City of Dundee, Scotland, on the occasion of a recent visit paid to that place. The Americans say that he has the freedom of the whole British Empire as a price for misrepresenting the United States. A queer people are these Yankees. They hunger for titles, honors and association with lords, yet they do not want their ambassador to act as a diplomat or a gentleman.

A WRITER in the Ceylon Catholic Messenger is surprised at the reports published in local papers of Protestant synods and Church congresses. He asks: "What are the Buddhists and Hindoos, who read the Colombo papers, to think of the doctrine of Christ, when they see those who pretend to be His ministers bandying words with each other like so many ricksha coolies?" This was the subject of one of the grandest passages in one of Charles Phillips' most eloquent orations.

How can a creature's words cause the miracle of Transubstantiation to take place? An anonymous correspondent asks this question. The words of the priest—a creature of God—are the expression of the act performed by Divine power. On the day of the Incarnation of Christ it was the creature of God—the Angel Gabriel—that spoke the words to

the Blessed Virgin that were the expression of the miracle performed by the same Divine power.

A CHICAGO paper asked the Governors of forty-four States to what religion they belonged; all except the Governors of Texas and North Carolina answered. Of the forty-two ten are Presbyterians, five Episcopalians, five Congregationalists, four Methodists, and three Unitarians, while the remainder attend church services, but belong to no denomination. There is not one Catholic in all.

AN American exchange very truly remarks:—

"Where the subscriber can he should help his Catholic paper along by making it a medium of exchange for its readers. If they have any news or ideas let them communicate it to this paper, it may awake another in some other mind when profitable and interesting discussion would result. At any rate it will emphasize the value of the paper itself as an exponent of Catholic opinion."

TURCHAN PASHA, the new Turkish minister of foreign affairs, is said to be the most progressive minister the Sultan ever had. He was educated in France, and at all official receptions his wife stands unveiled by his side. She dresses in the European style. Perhaps Turchan is somewhat of a prophet; he may have foreseen the end of Turkish sway and is preparing himself for the change. He is probably very wise in his generation, and he would like to let his wife have a little practice in public functions before the hand of civilization drags the veil from the Turkish female forever and tears down the barriers of the harem.

THE daily income of the principal rulers of Europe is as follows: The Czar of Russia, \$30,000; the Sultan of Turkey, \$20,000; the Emperor of Austria, \$12,500; the Emperor of Germany, \$10,000; the King of Italy, \$8,000; the Queen of England, \$8,000; the King of Belgium, \$2,000. Would some collector of statistics kindly give us the daily income of the principal editors, or the daily receipts of the principal newspapers, that guide the rulers, that make them hear the voice of the people, that keep them within bounds, and often that make them quake? The contrast would serve as an object lesson to the people who pay all these amounts.

THE Catholic Truth Society of Great Britain has about one thousand four hundred members, each of whom contributes five dollars yearly. The work was commenced ten years ago with a capital of sixty dollars and about four or five little devotional leaflets. Now it has six hundred and forty-eight publications ranging from a tract to a bulky volume. We would gladly see the people of this city take an interest, even remotely akin to that of the Catholics across the water, in our branch of the same society. Perhaps we are so largely in the majority in this Province that no person sees the need of circulating Catholic truth; if that is the reason, our semi-dormant coreligionists are on a fair way to the removal of the cause.

THE effects or practical results of reading newspapers and reading them properly may be gleaned from the following item, clipped from an exchange:—

"Do not neglect the newspaper; it is every man's text-book, and the great educator of the world. It is the laboring man's college. Every man should take one good newspaper and read it—not skim it. But few persons know how to master a newspaper. I know a shoemaker who became, on no less authority than James G. Blaine, one of the best informed men of the State in which he lived. This man began to read two newspapers in a week—one a political and the other a religious sheet. He resolved that he would not pass a word in either paper that he did not know the meaning of, and that he would not pass a name of mountain, river, or city that he did not know its location on the map. Then he bought a dictionary and a world's atlas and began to read, mastering every word he found. At first it was very slow work, but in time he had the world at his feet. His two newspapers gave him a liberal education."

ADVENT.

With last Sunday, the 1st December, the Church entered upon the holy season of Advent. Prior to the celebration of the glorious resurrection of Our Lord, the faithful are called upon to enter into the Lenten season of penance, to prepare in a befitting manner for the coming of Easter. So is it that before the great day of Christmas there is a period of fast and reparation, as well as preparation. Advent is a holy season of reflection and deep meditation. During those three weeks of self-denial the Church dons her garments of purple and the faithful are warned to get ready for a proper and truly Catholic celebration of the Nativity.

In our age the severe penances that once attached to Advent have been greatly reduced. But the days of fast and abstinence that are still prescribed should be all the more faithfully observed. Yet the Church is a good and considerate mother, and no one is obliged to follow the strict regulations of Advent

if it be made known and is apparent that, for one reason or another, such might prove injurious physically or otherwise to such persons. But the one to guide a Catholic's course, in such matters, is the confessor. Should, then, anyone feel that he or she is unable to obey, to the letter, the penance generally imposed, it becomes that person's duty to make known the circumstances of the case to the priest, and to act in accord with his directions.

Apart from those special cases and exemptions, there is no person between the prescribed ages who is free from the obligations imposed by the Church for the season of Advent. Moreover, no true Catholic should seek to avoid those slight restrictions. They are few and easy compared to the ordeals of penance and expiation undergone by the early Christians. A holy Advent, a well-kept season, is always the precursor of a truly merry and happy Christmas. How can a Christian expect to worthily celebrate that great central event in the Church's calendar, if unprepared, or rather if prepared by cold indifference to the requirements of the Holy Institution established by the One who came down to earth amidst the snows of that long ago December?

In another sense Advent represents those four thousand years of waiting and expectation, that elapsed between the fall of man and the coming of his Redeemer. During that long period, stretching from the days of Adam to the first Christmas Eve, the world was in darkness and sorrow, yet in hope and expectation. The patriarchs came forth and performed their missions, the prophets arose and delivered their messages, the white tents were pitched in the desert, the children of God suffered untold privations; finally, in the fulfilment of time the Messiah came, "not to destroy but to fulfil the law." For us these few weeks resemble the centuries of privation, misery, hope, trust and fond expectation. Let the Catholic world, then, take advantage of this season of purple penance to prepare for the white-robed celebration of glorious Christmas!

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

"Pius, our Pontiff King,
Unveiled the jewellery,
Gloriously set in thy bright diadem;
Mary, thy Holy face
Mirrors the Saviour's grace;
Mary, our pure, our Immaculate Gem."

On the eighth of December, next Sunday, the Church celebrates the Immaculate Conception of the Most Holy Mother of God. In 1854, surrounded by all the dignity of the Church Militant, and in the midst of the Sacred College of Cardinals, before the mitred representatives of the Universal Church, Pius IX., of holy memory, proclaimed, *ex-cathedra*, the wonderful, lovely and lovable dogma of the Immaculate Conception. We will not descend, at this moment, to combat the un-Christian and illogical arguments of men—and alas! of women—who would gladly tear away the veil of whiteness with which the Eternal clothed His most glorious of creatures. We will simply say that the idea and the fact of the Immaculate Conception did not take rise on that occasion. The dogma was as true as the fact had existed ever since the appearance of Mary upon the scene of existence. It was not the promulgation of the dogma that gave existence to the fact of her Immaculate Conception; it was the existence of that great fact that gave rise to the promulgation of the truth regarding it.

If the mind of man were not finite, it could grasp the glory of that scene in the chancel of heaven, when the myriad pure spirits, ranged around the white throne of the Omnipotent, beheld this creature of dazzling splendor, fresh from the Creative Hand, dawning upon existence. But the mere contemplation of such a picture would suffice to bewilder the most powerful intellect and to drive man to the verge of insanity in his efforts to grasp the immeasurable and unattainable. For long centuries it was unnecessary to pronounce positively upon this teaching of the Church. But the day of degenerate minds came upon the world; low and un-Christian spirits haunted the avenues of life; people began to question the truth of Mary's undefiled conception. Then did it become necessary to pronounce upon the dogma and to place it before the world, not as a matter of conjecture, but as one of fixed truth.

On that day, when the infallible Vicar of Christ, speaking in his capacity of representative of the Founder of Christianity, and as successor to St. Peter, declared that henceforth the Church held it as a promulgated teaching that the Mother of Our Lord was conceived free from original taint, it would seem as if the Pontiff were merely repeating the words of the holy envoy of God when He declared that "henceforth all nations shall call thee blessed." There was rejoicing in the ranks of the Church Triumphant on that glorious occasion. With the keys of St. Peter in his hand, upon the Rock of Ages that upholds the

Church, the venerable Pontiff struck the diapason, and the celestial choir catching the keynote of jubilation waited the chorus up to the very throne of God, the song of glorification went echoing back through the mountain ranges of the past; it went sweeping down the expanse of the future. The word "Immaculate" resounded throughout the universe, and Mary, the humble virgin of the remote Judean hamlet, was praised as never before was a creature of God.

It is meet that on Sunday next, when the Church dons vestments of white, when the sweet bells ring in harmonic jubilee, when the faithful bring tributes to the altar of Mary, that we should join in this grand spirit of Catholicity and proclaim, not in words, but in deeds, our veneration for the one whom the Almighty saw fit to honor in such a signal manner. There is, perhaps, no way in which the Immaculate Mother could be more pleased on that occasion, than in striving to correspond our thoughts, words, actions and lives to the simple rules of humility and obedience, of fidelity and a purity, that marked in such a conspicuous manner the life of the ever Blessed Virgin.

Hail Mary, Immaculate gem, pray for us sinners, that we may have the grace to imitate thy sanctified life.

SIR WILLIAM HINGSTON.

In reply to the requisition presented to him, on Saturday last, Sir William Hingston made use of the following words: "I have not listened to the call of any party, and I desire this fact to be clearly understood. If I thought that party, above everything else, prompted this call to duty, I would unhesitatingly decline nomination on the spot. There are periods, however, when partyism should be set aside and that patriotism should take its place, and this is one of them. I do not want to see Protestants arrayed against Catholics and Catholics against Protestants; neither do I desire to see such race and religious crises, as have for some time past been heard within the walls of the House of Commons, transferred, for an indefinite period, to the arena of every electoral discussion."

Such is the stand that we would have expected Sir William to take, and we are pleased to know that he is prepared to place country before party; to rise, in face of the present crisis, to a level superior to that attained by mere politicians. Considering the gravity of the situation, the importance of the great central issue that will occupy the attention of Parliament during the coming session, and the numerous qualifications that any man, who pretends to represent the interests of this vast and important constituency, must possess, we can heartily, and in his own spirit of broad patriotism, endorse Sir William's stand, and ask of all, who look beyond the narrow circle of political partyism, to lend him the aid of their influence during the contest now commenced. If the accident of parties were reversed, and that Sir William were a member of the Liberal party and his opponent a Conservative, we would feel that it was our duty, for the sake of the cause and the people whose interests we are bound to voice, to advocate his return by as large a majority as could possibly be secured, for the TRUE WITNESS cannot be the organ of any party.

The man who occupies a seat in the House of Commons, as representative of Montreal Centre, during the coming session, should be thoroughly equipped for the great struggle that is anticipated; he should have a deep and exact knowledge of the all-important question of debate; he should be able to grasp it from the constitutional rather than from a narrow party standpoint; he should be of such weight that his expressions, conveying his knowledge of the subject, would command the undivided attention of the House, and challenge refutation. Although each section of the population that makes up a Canadian nationality is ever anxious to have the very strongest and best representation, still, no section can as ill afford to be inadequately or imperfectly represented as the Irish Catholic element. The reason is potent. Out of a couple of score of representatives our French Canadian friends have material enough to secure a goodly number of strong and effective men; the same may apply in the case of the still more largely represented Protestant English-speaking element, while we have but few—very few—men in all that assembly, and it is most imperative that each one of these should be a real host in himself.

Sir William Hingston possesses each and all of the qualifications requisite; he enjoys them in a remarkably high degree. He has not sought to impose his candidature on the public; on the contrary, he has been absolutely forced into the contest; he has, at great personal sacrifice, in the interest of the public, and for the good of the country, laid aside his own inclinations and come into the breach at the moment when all his fine talents and universally acknowledged ability are needed. He will have to wrestle in the arena of intellect for

justice to all and for the constitutional rights of his immediate fellow-countrymen more especially.

Sir William very feelingly stated, on Monday evening, that were the East, West and Centre Wards to give a unanimous support, he would still look to the esteem of his early labors and first friendship as an evidence that the people of his own race had not forgotten him and his labours among them. Fifteen times had he by letter and by word of mouth declined nomination; but when a requisition borne by a deputation composed of the backbone of the old Griffintown section came before him, it revived the memory of familiar faces and recalled his early career, when his days and nights were spent for the people of that district, receiving in return their blessings and their gratitude. He could no longer decline, and submitted.

Sir William has not sought the position; it came to him from the great body of his fellow-citizens. It now remains for them to do him the justice of a sure return and by a grand majority. Moreover, we must remember that the eyes of the Dominion are upon that constituency. We have always been foremost in demanding the very best representation for our people; to-day we feel that a grand opportunity is afforded us of proving to the country at large that we have a proper estimate of our own worth; that we value our influence and fair name far beyond all petty considerations of party or of party interests; and that we are prepared to exercise our franchise for the general good, and, at the same time, in the interests of our own immediate present and of the future of those who depend upon us for their heritage.

TO HEAL THE SICK.

Mr. Hugh Ryan's Handsome Gift to St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto.

The ceremonies in connection with the opening of the new addition to St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, the gift of Mr. Hugh Ryan, were commenced on the 25th, in the morning, at 8 o'clock, at which hour His Grace the Archbishop of Toronto celebrated Mass in the hospital chapel. He was assisted by Vicar-General McCann and Father Ryan, rector of the cathedral. All the city priests were present, as well as a number of ladies who had been invited.

The formal opening took place at 3.30 p.m. and was largely attended by prominent citizens and others to whom invitations had been sent by the Advisory Board. All present were shown about the building by members and the Sisters in charge. The following gentlemen composed the Advisory Board, and to them much of the success of the proceedings is to be attributed:—President, His Grace Archbishop Walsh; First Vice-President, Hugh Ryan; Second Vice-President, Sir Frank Smith; Committee, Mayor Kennedy, Thos. Long, M. O'Connor, W. T. Murray; Secretary, H. T. Kelly.

Many short addresses were delivered, all of which displayed a spirit of broad Catholicity, and attributed the highest praise to Mr. Hugh Ryan, the large-hearted donor of the newly-erected wing.

TWO HUNDRED LOST.

Bad News from the Pacific.

Last week the Northern Pacific liner Tacoma arrived at Vancouver. The news she brought seals the fate of her companion liner the Strathvein, four weeks missing, from this port for Yokohama. It is accepted as a fact that she must have gone down with two hundred lives in the fiercest storm of the 15th inst., from which the Tacoma miraculously escaped.

The vessel had a very hard time, and was almost destroyed in the cyclonic storm that raged.

The Strathvein left Tacoma, Wash., on October 12, and has not been sighted since. The vessel carried 125 Chinese passengers, and the balance of the 200 were her crew.

Count Tanke Dend.

A Vienna despatch of the 29th November, says: Count Edward Tanke, formerly Prime Minister of Austria, died this morning on his estate at Eltschau, in Bohemia. He had been ill for several months with heart affection and subsequent pneumonia. Count Edward Francis Joseph Tanke was born at Prague, in 1833. He was Viscount Tanke, of Gorran, and Baron of Ballymore, Sign, in the Irish peerage; Count of the Holy Roman Empire; and a member of the Habsburg dynasty of Austria. He was brought up along with the Emperor Francis Joseph, whose intimate friend he was. He entered the Imperial service in 1857. After holding many high state offices, notably the Governorship of the Tyrol and Vorarlberg, he became Prime Minister of Austria in 1879, and in that office, which he held until 1883, he displayed an extraordinaryadroitness in managing the heterogeneous nationalities which composed the Austrian and Hungarian states. In 1893 he put forward a carefully elaborated political programme, which met with general opposition and led to his retirement. He was sixty-two years of age.

War on German Socialists.

In view of the quantity and character of the documents and other material evidence collected by the police in their recent visits to the houses of prominent Socialists in Berlin, Germany, the public prosecutor has decided to close the respective headquarters of the Socialist unions at once. This action is to be taken upon the strength of article 15 of the laws relating to associations, pending the decision of the courts in the matter.

THAT PALE FACE.

For Nervous Prostration and Anemia there is no medicine that will so promptly and infallibly restore vigor and give strength as Scott's Emulsion.