

The Catholic Record
Published Weekly at 48 Richmond Street,
London, Ontario.

Catholic Record.
LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPT. 27, 1884.

TWO SPEECHES.

The friends of the Hon. Mr. Mowat gathered in their thousands last week to greet him on his return from the old land, whither he had gone to represent the interests of Ontario in the famous boundary dispute.

"I come from a Province where some of us have strong sympathies with the views you express, and where some of us believe it is not at all unpopular that the view of Egyptian darkness should prevail sometimes. (Laughter.) We do not have perpetual darkness in the Province of Quebec. (Laughter.) We have lucid intervals with respect to political opinion and times when rays of darkness penetrate further than just now.

Who then are the persecutors of the Liberal party of Quebec? Are the priests to be blamed for its misfortunes or are the English speaking Protestants of the Province the true cause of the evil lines on which its career has run and now runs? Mr. Mercier has cut out work for Mr. Huntington. Let the latter give the priests a rest, however brief, and let him devote some attention to the Orangemen and other sections of Quebec Protestantism, that thus far have refused to follow the standard of Liberalism.

Mr. Huntington would then have it that the Liberals of Quebec suffer from a system of persecution unknown to the Liberals of Upper Canada. Or in plainer terms he would have his hearers believe that the Liberals of Lower Canada may justly attribute all their misfortunes to clerical intervention in elections in opposition to their candidates and their principles. Mr. Huntington should have laid the charge of his convictions and named the "unhappy" causes that have led to Liberal disaster in Quebec.

Intimate as Mr. Huntington's knowledge of the Liberal party in his own province, it is no closer than that of Mr. Mercier, its active and energetic leader. Yet Mr. Mercier does not speak of persecution, clerical or otherwise, as the cause of the exclusion of Liberals from power in Quebec. He stated the true cause of that fact when he pointed out that whereas the French population of the province was nearly equally divided in politics, the English element, of which Mr. Huntington is one of the representatives men, casts the weight of its political influence with the Conservative party. Mr. Mercier was very pointed in this regard:

"While engaged in these struggles for public interest and the triumph of honest government, I am always surprised at the indifference shown by our English population. Out of fifteen counties, exclusively controlled by the British element in our Eastern Townships, we can

hardly count one or two. We may say that it is that population who maintain in power the bitterest enemies of equal rights, of religious tolerance, and the natural instigators of race and creed prejudice. The fact is that our French population is almost equally divided, and if the English speaking electors had been willing to do their duty in joining those who in our Province are honestly fighting for public welfare, the political adventurers who have so long misgoverned our country would have long ago received the chastisement which they so richly deserve. I hope, however, that the day is not far distant when my fellow-citizens, of English, Irish, or Scotch origin, in the Province of Quebec will understand their true interest, and tender their hands to their friends and natural allies, the Liberals, in order to restore in our Province a government worthy of a free and intelligent country. With their help we can put a stop to our annual deficits and to the scandals of the present Administration; we can rid the country of the political sharks who at present bear so heavily upon her; we can uproot the prejudices of race and religion so shamelessly taken advantage of, and spread throughout all classes by the Conservative party, and at the same time inaugurate an honest system of government, which will enrich the country and give satisfaction to all honest citizens. I hope you will excuse me, gentlemen, for having entered into so many details, but I thought I owed to my party and to the generous friends who so devotedly struggle with me against so many difficulties, to acquaint you with the causes of our last defeat, together with our legitimate hopes for the future. We follow the steps of those whom your leaders have known and admired; depositors of the noble parliamentary traditions left by Baldwin, Dorion, Le-tellier, and Fournier. We fight for the same cause, we are victims of the same persecutions, we contend against the same prejudices, and like them we make an appeal to all those who have at heart the intellectual progress of our population and the material welfare of the country. I know that the Hon. Mr. Mowat and his distinguished colleagues and all those who give a hearty support to his Liberal Government belong to this class, and I am sure that they cannot refuse us the help of their sympathies in this great battle which will end by our definite success in Quebec, and the final triumph of Honourable Edward Blake in Ottawa. (Prolonged cheering.)"

Who then are the persecutors of the Liberal party of Quebec? Are the priests to be blamed for its misfortunes or are the English speaking Protestants of the Province the true cause of the evil lines on which its career has run and now runs? Mr. Mercier has cut out work for Mr. Huntington. Let the latter give the priests a rest, however brief, and let him devote some attention to the Orangemen and other sections of Quebec Protestantism, that thus far have refused to follow the standard of Liberalism. Activity will be something unusual in the career of the ex-Post-Master General. But now that he has leisure, he can prove the sincerity of his convictions by giving himself earnestly and unceasingly to the work of extending Liberal views amongst un-priest-ridden sections of the Lower Canadian population.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

We beg to tender our hearty congratulations to the Catholics of the villages of Bryson and Portage du Fort in the county of Pontiac, on their establishment of Catholic schools. The establishment of these schools meets a long felt want. The Catholics in both places are well able to support schools of their own and should do so. For many years the Quebec school law was so administered in the county of Pontiac as if Catholics were rarely tolerated in that Province. Injustice reigned rampant at the county Board of Examiners till at last the bill was taken boldly by the horns and floured. Bigotry was the rule with many boards of commissioners where an accidental Protestant majority prevailed, and is so, we are told, in some places yet where such a majority prevails. To the Catholics of Pontiac we now repeat what we have often said to them and to others, that there is nothing to be gained by subservience or servility. If they desire to win and retain the esteem and regard of their fellow-citizens of other creeds let them assert and exercise their legal rights. The Pontiac Equity seems to regret the establishment of the school in Bryson. That paper says:

"Dissatisfaction is felt in some quarters by both parties at this decidedly unwise move as many of whom argue that the municipality is only able to support one good school, and that if it was not for the bungling of two or three sore-heads in the village, who have been inventing all kinds of little schemes, which were nipped in the bud every time, and which drifted into this last as a means of trying to gain a little influence over certain individuals, such a step would never have been taken. No doubt when the time comes for electing school commissioners these gentlemen will be replaced by competent men who will be above contemptible little schemes, and who will work for, and not against, the best interests of the people."

Where the unwisdom of the movement comes in, the Equity does not say. We venture to tell that journal that the Catholic ratepayers of that flourishing village have done that which will best promote public interest. We have known places in the County of Pontiac where Catholics were forced to bear with great injustice at the hands of fanatical commissioners. In one place, to say

nothing of others, the attendance of Catholic children at a Protestant form of prayer was for a time illegally enforced. And this, let it be remembered, in the Catholic province of Quebec. We again congratulate the Catholics of Bryson and Portage du Fort on their wise and thoughtful course in establishing schools of their own for the Christian instruction of their children.

HON. JOHN O'CONNOR.

We made but brief mention last week of the appointment of the Hon. John O'Connor, Q. C., to the bench of Ontario. The appointment is in all respects so fitting, and consequently so popular, that our return to the subject this week will be very easily understood. Especially so, if note be taken of the article in the Toronto News of the 15th inst., entitled "an undesirable appointment." We have rarely, if ever, read anything so clearly marked by the disreputable impression of prejudice as this effusion of our Toronto contemporary, drawn out by the elevation of Mr. O'Connor to the Superior Court Bench. The Toronto journal says that the "appointment is about as bad as could have been made. Mr. O'Connor has no qualifications whatever for the position. He is simply a politician of shady antecedents, and has never displayed any ability, either in his profession or in the administrative positions which he has held."

"The best proof of the unfitness of the new judge for the position into which he has been pitched, is that the Mail, which generally feels called upon to endorse the government's nominations, no matter how outrageous, in mentioning editorially the appointment, cannot bring itself to say a single word in favor of it. When the Mail has no syllable of praise for an act of the Dominion government, it must indeed be indefensible."

"From every point of view the nomination is a mistake. If it was intended as a compliment to the Irish Catholics it is certainly a very poor one. There are many Catholic lawyers of ability and standing in their profession, and politically in sympathy with the Dominion government, who could have been selected for the honor, and upon whose selection both the government and their co-religionists could have been fairly congratulated. But to put forward Hon. John O'Connor as a representative Catholic lawyer, is to cast an unjust slur upon that body, instead of doing them honor."

As to Mr. O'Connor's political position, it need only be observed that he has since 1872 occupied a very prominent place in the ranks of the Conservative party, having in that year entered the government of Sir John A. Macdonald as President of the Council. His appointment to this high office was universally regarded as a befitting reward for the long and arduous services rendered by his party in the political arena for the previous ten or fifteen years. In respect of his standing as a lawyer we will content ourselves with a statement which all who know Mr. O'Connor and appreciate the extent of his opportunities will readily substantiate, that had he led politics severely alone, he might easily have amassed a colossal fortune. As a pleader he was clear, convincing and powerful."

We were not, till we read it in the News, aware that the Mail's commendation of any man was a necessary proof of his qualification. We have known the Mail to commend many men who in our judgment were far from the possession of the qualifications required in judicial or executive offices. Be that, however, as it may, Mr. O'Connor is unquestionably the equal of several of those gentlemen whose attainments reflect credit on the judiciary of Ontario. The News says that Mr. O'Connor is not a representative Irish Catholic. As the Irish Catholic body is, like all other bodies in this country, divided in the matter of politics, Mr. O'Connor never could, of course, be said to be a representative man politically, except amongst those of his fellow-countrymen and co-religionists who support Sir John A. Macdonald. With them he is certainly a representative man in the highest and best sense of that term. Mr. O'Connor's own career is the strongest proof of his representative character and of his eminent fitness for the place to which he has been raised. The new judge was called to the bar of Upper Canada in 1854. He is also a member of the Michigan (U. S.) Bar, and was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1873. He was Reeve of the town of Windsor and warden of Essex for three years, being twice elected by the unanimous vote of the County Council. He also, for 12 years, fulfilled the duties of chairman of the Board of Education of the town of Windsor. Mr. O'Connor is the author of Letters addressed to the Governor on the subject of Fenianism, published in 1870. He was President of the Council in Sir John Macdonald's Administration from 2nd July, 1872, until 4th March, 1873; Minister of Inland Revenue from 4th March until 1st July, 1873, and Post-master General from the latter date until the resignation of the Government, on the 5th

November of the same year. He was again sworn as president of the Council on 17th October, 1878, which position he held until 15th January, 1880, when he resigned and became Postmaster-General. On November 8th, 1880, he was appointed Secretary of State and again Postmaster-General on the 20th May, 1881, holding office until May, 1882, when he resigned. Mr. O'Connor was an unsuccessful candidate for Essex in the Legislative Assembly of Canada, at the general election in 1861, but succeeded, in 1863, in unseating the sitting member (Mr. Arthur Rankin) and obtaining a new election, when he was returned and sat until the dissolution of Parliament in May of that year. He again contested the same seat at the general elections in 1863 when a special return was made to the House by the returning officer; both candidates petitioned to be seated, and Mr. O'Connor's petition being thrown out by the speaker upon preliminary objections, Mr. Rankin was seated.

Mr. O'Connor was returned to the Commons for Essex at the general election of 1867 and again in 1872. He contested the city of Ottawa unsuccessfully in 1875 for the Local Legislature of Ontario, but at the general election of 1878 was returned to the Commons for the County of Russell, and in a few weeks after re-elected by acclamation on his acceptance of office. In 1882 he resigned his position in the government and did not present himself for re-election. From that time till his appointment to the bench he was employed by the government of the Dominion on the boundary case and in the codification of the laws. Few men now wearing the ermine have had the same opportunities for the training required to interpret the law as has had Mr. O'Connor. We tender him our hearty compliments on his elevation, trusting that he may long adorn the bench of Ontario by his research, his lucidity, his firmness, and his dignity of character.

KNOCKED ON THE HEAD.

We really feel that it is time we should apologize to our readers for having so often and at such length trespass on their kind indulgence by reference to the iniquitous scheme of gerrymandering in regard to the wards into which the city of Ottawa is now divided. Our readers will readily understand our reason for so stealthily protesting against the iniquitous designs of the plotters because of the injustice which the proposed re-distribution must of necessity inflict on nearly 20,000 Catholic people resident in the city of Ottawa. Repeatedly defeated in their purpose at the City Council Board, the factionists now strive to bulldoze the government of Ontario. In the issue of the Ottawa Free Press of Sept. 17th we read a summary of the report of an interview between one of its representatives and the now far-famed Ald. Cunningham, who has permitted himself to be used as the veriest catspaw in the whole transaction. We must trouble our readers with this summary that they may see the manner of men with whom the Catholic majority of Ottawa have to contend:

"Ald. Cunningham, who is championing the scheme of dividing the city into seven wards instead of five as at present, yesterday informed a Free Press reporter that the question was still in abeyance, and not knocked on the head as seemed to be the general opinion. The Ontario government, he said, had not as yet given any decision in the matter. The special committee to whom the question was referred, would stand by their actions so far. Every step taken was done at the advice of the best lawyers in the city. The members of the committee have not acted according to their own judgment in the least in their dealings with the government. The committee placed the matter before the government. The latter then asked the committee for their reading of the Municipal law. The committee passed by the Council on the 15th May last, declaring the expediency for a re-division of the wards, complied with the law. All done after that was simply to assist the Lt. Governor in Council in the work the committee asked him to do. The vote on the 1st September was taken in reply to that false document sent by those six aldermen, in which it was represented that the scheme would not pass the council. The committee had the full confidence of the council in their transactions. The council never wanted the committee to report back. The vote of the council at the meeting held on the 1st September, ten to six, in favor of the proposed re-division gives the lie to that document sent by the six aldermen to the Ontario government. In conclusion, Ald. Cunningham said that a deputation would shortly wait on the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, and demonstrate to him that a majority of the members of the City Council were in favor of the scheme. The deputation will take with them a petition, with over two thousand signatures, and representing nine out of the eleven million of the city's property valuation, and the petitioners are all in favor of the re-division."

Mr. Cunningham is wrong and very wrong when he states (1) that the resolution of May 5th complied with the law; (2) that every step taken was done at the advice of the best lawyers in the city, and (3) that the committee had the full confidence of the council in their transactions. By the way, will Mr. Cunningham tell us who are those "best lawyers"? Mr. Cunningham speaks of two

thousand petitioners representing nine out of the eleven millions of the city's property valuation. Does the gentleman really forget that the principle of representation by population is that which pervades all our institutions, parliamentary and municipal? According to the principle on which he would have the government in this case act, the workmen were placed entirely at the mercy of the rich. We commend this point to the intelligent workmen of Victoria Ward. The fact is that the project is knocked in the head, not by the government of Ontario, so much as by the stupidity of its own promoters. No one objects to a fair re-distribution, but the Cunningham scheme is too one-sided, too unjust, too villainous, for even consideration.

IRISH CATHOLIC CLAIMS.

In its issue of the 8th of September the Montreal Star, speaking of the vacant Chief Justiceship of Quebec, assumes the position of mentor to the Irish Catholics of Canada. The Star says: "Again, we are informed that the Irish Catholics insist that one of them should be appointed, and the name of Mr. Curran, M. P., is mentioned. It is time these class cries were forever stilled. Irish Catholics have no more or no fewer rights in the community than Scotch, German or English Catholics or Protestants. In the United States the Irish Catholics do not cry out for separate rights, and the consequence is, that portion of the people come much more to the front than they do here, simply because when one element in the community voluntarily isolates itself from the rest, and claims special representation, the balance only accord it what it lays claim to, and it gets nothing more. If our Irish fellow-citizens would cease this eternal clamor for peculiar privileges, and throw themselves in with the rest of the community, we have enough confidence in Irish push, enterprise and ability to believe that they would get a larger share of the good things going than they now seem to secure. No one ever hears of an Irish Catholic physician or merchant laying claim to any special favors on the ground of his nationality and religion, and our Hingstons, O'Brien, Murphys and others are proofs that Irish Catholic ability has as good a chance of success as any other kind. In politics, on the other hand, the Irish Catholics mark off certain constituencies and places as theirs and their only, the result being that they never get outside the limits which they impose on themselves. We are all Canadians, or we ought to be, and if an Irish Catholic is the best man for any position, he ought to get it, no matter by whom it has previously been held."

It is time indeed that mere class cries were forever stilled, but the insistence by the Irish Catholics on their just rights in the matter of public patronage is not what we call a class cry in the objectionable sense of that term. But the exclusion of a man from place and preferment simply because he is an Irish Catholic is to us the most scandalous form of class cry that can be raised. Is the Star unaware that Irish Catholics have been and are now sufferers from the exclusiveness gotten of hatred of their race and creed? Does not the Star know, even if it have not the honesty to avow it, that Irish Catholics have in their midst men fitted for every class of position in the gift of the government and that they have never yet had their legitimate share of these places?

Irish Catholics want no more and will be content with no fewer rights than Scotchmen, Germans or Englishmen. And we may here incidentally remark that the English speaking Protestant minority of Lower Canada, of which the Star is a shining light, is that body which of all others in this country has most determinedly insisted on and succeeded in obtaining the enjoyment of peculiar privileges. From out of its mouth therefore comes with very bad grace the imputation of unpatriotic motives to Irish Catholics because of their occasional assertion of right in matters so important to them as a class, as the filling, for instance, of the Chief Justiceship of Quebec. The Star's talk of Irish Catholic physicians and merchants is the veriest twaddle. There is no analogy whatever between the cases. We are happy to hear our contemporary declare that we are all Canadians, and that if an Irish Catholic is the best man for a place he should get it. How often, unfortunately, have not the "best men" been made stand aside because they were Irish Catholics. The Star concludes its incubation with the following:

"At the same time we must confess that Mr. Curran does not strike us as the most fit person to be the Chief Justice of the Superior Court, nor do we imagine that gentleman himself would be anxious to leave the political arena, in which he bids fair to make his mark, for the seclusion of the judicial bench."

But, for goodness' sake, let us have done with these petty local cries in such matters as these!" We have a word or two to say in regard to Mr. Curran. That gentleman, the Star to the contrary notwithstanding, is possessed of every qualification required for the due filling of the position. Yet we should deeply regret Mr. Curran's appointment to the Chief Justiceship or any position necessitating his retirement from political life. Mr. Curran is, in our estimation, the representative par excellence of the Irish Catholic body of the Dominion on the floor of the Canadian Parliament. His eloquence and energy, his foresight and his aptitude for

public business mark him out as one of the coming men in the Dominion Commons. He represents the largest and most influential body of Irish Catholic constituents in the country. And as member for the Centre Division of the city of Montreal he enjoys a personal prestige and influence of which no other man in our national legislature can boast. His majority at the last election, though his opponent was an influential and respected gentleman, was one of the largest ever cast in a Canadian Parliamentary election. That majority was made up of citizens of all classes and creeds, eager to secure the brilliant talents of Mr. John Joseph Curran as one of the representatives of the commercial metropolis of Canada on the floor of Parliament. No, neither the citizens of Montreal nor the Irish Catholics of Canada can afford to lose the political services of Mr. Curran. The latter especially look with desire to his speedy elevation to the highest councils of the nation, as the man of all men best qualified to present their views and uphold their rights. Of any administration of which Mr. Curran may form part we will, we need not say, be a veritable tower of strength.

A BASE ATTACK.

A correspondent of the Irish Canadian from Kingston indulges in a base and villainous attack on this journal and its agent, Mr. Donat Crowe. The writer of this scandalous production, who signs himself "Observer," is well known to us as an individual who had vainly sought the influence of the Record, to further "his own little schemes. He has not forgotten the abject and cringing letter he wrote us to secure the assistance of this "dry and newless" journal to procure for him an appointment under Mr. Mowat. If he has forgotten it we may take very earnest steps to remind him of the tenor of that production, which is yet in our hands. As to our agent, Mr. Donat Crowe, we need but observe that the attack on that worthy gentleman by this unprincipled and cowardly writer does not at all surprise us. Mr. Crowe has the happy faculty of calling "a spade, a spade." Hence the anger of this worthy and of his abettors in the Limestone City. Some of the best friends of the Record are to be found in Kingston, who feel indignant at the outrageous assault of "Observer" on an honest and respectable man. We give fair warning to this scribe and his counselors that neither with this paper nor with its agents will they be permitted to deal with the flagrant injustice characteristic of their latest effort.

BISHOP MAES.

The appointment is announced of the Rev. Camillus Maes, of Detroit, to the See of Covington, Ky., vacant since the death of the lamented Bishop Toebbe. To those who know Father Maes it is unnecessary to say that his appointment is one that cannot fail to give satisfaction to the clergy and laity of Covington, as well as to the Church at large in America. A contemporary informs us that Rev. Camillus Paul Maes, the Bishop elect of Covington, was born March 13, 1846, in the city of Courtrai, West Flanders, Belgium, of respectable Catholic parents. Having made his classical studies in the principal college of his native place, graduating in 1863, he studied theology at Bruges and in the American Seminary, Louvain. Ordained priest for the diocese of Detroit in December, 1868, he came to America in May, 1869. His first pastoral charge was at Mt. Clemens where he remained till 1871. Here he built a fine Catholic school which he placed in charge of the Sister Servants of Mary. In April, 1871, he succeeded Very Rev. Edward Joos, V. G., as pastor at Munroe, where he organized St. John's parish for the English-speaking portion of the congregation. In July, 1873, he became pastor of the new church, Father Soffers succeeding him as pastor of St. Mary's. His administration of St. John's was marked by great prudence and energy. He was the friend of all, especially the young. In 1880 he received the appointment of secretary of the diocese of Detroit, which he has since retained. Father Maes is a tireless worker, and a close student. He has already published a life of the Rev. Charles Nerinckx, one of the early missionaries of Kentucky, and is at this moment engaged in the preparation of a history of the Catholic Church in Michigan. A secular journal says of Father Maes:

"Bishop Maes is a tall, stoutly built man, with aquiline features, florid complexion and black curling hair. He speaks with a French accent and gesticulates slightly when in conversation. His reputation for sagacity in business and administrative ability is very high. Personally he is one of the most popular men in the diocese."

Of the diocese of Covington we learn that it was established in 1853, and comprises that part of Kentucky lying east of the Kentucky river, and of the western limit of Carroll, Owen, Franklin, Woodford, Jessamine, Ganand, Rock Castle, Laurel and Whitley counties. Its first Bishop was the Right Rev. George Aloysius Carroll, D. D., who was consecrated November 1, 1853, and died September 25, 1868. The late lamented

Bishop Toebbe was 9, 1870, and died these prelates adim affairs of the diocese thirty years, and many lasting monuments and zeal. The Catholic diocese is estimated fifty-one secular priests in the diocese. Theological students in twenty-five churches and twenty-three where Mass is of number of orphaned three; hospitals, tw We beg to tender relations to Father M. usefulness and virtue for which his virtuously fit him.

DEATH OF MR.

On the 19th inst. the death of Mr. T. firm of Wright and Wright, Esq., our respected fellow-citizen had been suffering and some months take a trip east to the most eminent While in that city time caused the city his friends, as he never again see him the careful attendance and the watchful ness of his fond sis he rallied and recove to such a degree as long the old-time On the date me passed away rather on King street. We do we pen these the death of Mr. T. intimately from b all our acquaintanc held as high a plac regard as this gen companion and friend painful to hear of on whose wholelif our midst, but pa this grief when it possessed of such subject of this s honest in all his low-citizens, in his kind and loving h such as Thomas his pure and noble the unending bliss To his relatives v condolence in their

The funeral of the took place at 9.30 inst., from St. Peter one of the largest city. High Mass was Father Tierman. Bruyere presided at the whole body of Mass Rev. Father text "Blessed are t Lord, for they are labors and their go them," spoke very subject of death ar circumstance that had the bier and the alt referring in most characteristic of its peace and joy contrasting it with ings of the death Tierman proceeded sive reference to the late Mr. Wright. Lordship the Bish regret felt by the case at his unavail funeral service. formed high hope was one of those he looked to rep of zealous and God were otherw faithful servant to been edifying, h the conclusion of cortege moved from cemetery, where E last sad offices. join with heart a that the soul of rest in peace an may shine upon h

CANADA'S

The Western 22nd inst., was the hibition of the ki The number of an increase of 1, display in all th credit to Canada Ontario. The e finest we have of good cattle say department was The directors Western Fair Ass son to congratu success (attended city was crowde