THETRUEWITNESS

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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TO ADVERTISERS.

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WEDNESDAY,....DECEMBER 23, 1891

CHRISTMAS.

To its friends THE TRUE WITNESS, on this most glorious festival in the calendar, extends its geeting in the words of an old poet:-

" Long may you live to hear, and we to call A Happy Christmas and New Year to all! May each New Year new Joys, new pleasure

And life for you be one delightful spring. No summer's sun annoy with feverish rays. No winter chill the evening of your days."

In these humdrum days, when only the ledger reigns, and everything is judged by a commercial standard, the popular manner of celebrating Christmas is very different to what it was in the olden time. The world has become more sedate in its way of observing festivals. People do not now devote much time to their observance, nor do they evince the same enthusiasm that they did in the ages of faith, or even in later days, before mankind began to rush through life at railway speed. Formerly there was nothing but a run of merry days from Christmas Eve to Candlemas, and the first twelve in particular, as we learned triumph and hospitality. The joyous intercourse among all classes in the good old days has almost entirely disappeared. This is much to be regretted, inastancias Christianity had a special eye to those feelings which should remind us or the equal rights of all; and the greatest beauty in it is not merely its charity. which we contrive to swallow up, but in being alive to the sentiment of charity, which is still more opposed to our manner of observing this festival.

The same spirit that vindicated the pouring rich ointment on the feet of Our Lord, because it was a homage paid to sentiment in His person, knew how to bless the gift of a cup of water. Every face which you contribute to set sparkling at Christmas is a reflection of that goodness of nature which generosity helps a common sorrow. For it is but simple held in reverence among the people to fact that such an act has gradually beto uncloud, as windows reflect the lustreof the sunny heavens. Every evergreen to say that his influence extended through all classes, and that those by whom he is a piece of natural piety, as well as was beloved and admired were to be beauty, and will enable you to relish the green world of which you show yourselvenot forgetful. Every harmless pleasure. every innocent mirth, however mirthful. every forgetfulness even of serious things, when they are only forgotten in the kindness and joy which it is the end of wisdom to produce, is

"Wisest, virtuousest, discreetest, best;"

and Milton's Eve, who suggested those epithets to her husband, would have hood was celebrated in this city, many thought so too, if we are to judge by the poet's account of her hospitality.

But though so many of the old ways of celebrating Christmas have fallen into disase, or have not been imported into this newer and more matter-of-fact country, enough has been preserved in the memories and associations which cling about it to make it ever the dearest season in the year. The social aspect has become more and more confined to the home and the circle of intimate friends. Ordinary acquaintances, though they are accustomed to meet each other daily, still observe the day with the shaking of hands and the old-fashioned greet. ing of "A Merry Christmas!" The wassail-bowl still flows, but Christmas is not needed to give an excuse for the observance of that ancient custom. It musthowever, be admitted, in defence of our modern Christmas manners, that in our homes, and in our religious observances, a deeper sense of the sacredness of the day is felt than when it was made a time of riotous rejoicing openly by the whole community. We have lost the heathenish habits of less cultivated and less educated times. We observe the festival more soberly, more decorously, and, in reality, with greater reverence than did our forefathers. Their way of celebration doubtless reflected the customs of the times in which they lived. They were more child-like in their faith and in their manner of observing their festivals.

In these days we realize the awful sublimity of the most wonderful announce-

child is born,"-fill the breasts of hundreds of millions with a hope the most consoling, the most sublime, that a human mind can conceive or the heart can entertain. As in Bailey's " Festus : "

Star unto star speaks light, and world to world Repeats the passage of the universe

To God; the name of Christ-the one great Well worth all languages in earth or Heaven.

Apart, however, from its religious associations, Christmas has associations which deeply influence the social life of our people. The ancient custom of the family gathering on this day, still widely observed, has an effect that makes for the purifying and ennobling of life. If it revives memories of the loved and lost, it also smooths away asperities. draws the bonds of affection still closer, teaches forgiveness and forgetfulness of injuries, and brings into greater prominence the better side of our nature.

As nothing is sweeter than the poetry and music of Christmas; as the bells, when rung at Christmas, have a sound more solemn than on any other day in the year, so have their echoes in the hearts of even the most thoughtless a music which seems to come from the far away past, laden with a sorrow that is full of hope.

"God rest ye, little children; let nothing you affright. For Jesus Christ, your Saviour, was born this

happy night; Along the hills of Galilee the white flocks sleeping, lay,

When Christ, the Child of Nazareth, was born on Christmas Day."

All that is beautiful in our idea of heaven—all that is good in our thoughts of earth-all that is blessed, hopeful and inspiring in our faith, come to us with renewed splendor and promise on Christ,

Let us, therefore, be thankful that we have lived to see this blessed day once more, and may the lesson it teaches help as to live better during the coming

FATHER DOWD.

of some providings been said that from the old chronicles, were full of their wooks were for a time, of others that their words were for all time, but of Father Dowelli can truly be said that his works are for eteraty.

> When the Irish tatnolies of Montreal know so intimately of those works, feel so deeply that they are ended on earth forever, yet mourn so profoundly at the oss of him who so long held the first dace in their affections, it is a most difficult task to adequately give expression to the emotions that arise when e... leavoring to write on a theme so affecting as the death of Father Dowd.

But it is not any section of the Catholies, nor indeed all the Catholics of Montreal, but the whole community of all creeds and nationalities, who feel that a great loss has been sustained, and all creeds and nationalities are touched with justice to the memory of Father Dowd found in . I churches, Protestant as well as Catholic, and in every rank of society. Even when sectarian disputations ranhigh, and when over-zealous and misinstant forfeited the respect or the confithe year 1887, the jubilee of his priest-Protestant divines of the different sects in doing honer to the good priest of St. Patrick's. This fact, remarkable as it was, considering the intensity with which religious differences were often discussed, bears luminous testimony to the influence he exercised among the people,

And if to-day those differences are held with less discourtesy, while all classes live together in greater harmony and toleration of each other's views and i opinions, the change must be largely attributed to the wise, kindly and consistent spirit which Father Dowd infused into all his actions in dealing with those of other religious persuasions.

But it is among the poor that the loss of Father Dowd will be most deeply felt. He was always their best friend, their wisest counsellor, their most carnest been to address a letter of the most in-

to become a bishop over some of the

most important sees in America. Early in his career his extraordinary administrative ability marked him out, in the estimation of all who knew him, as Church. But, as we have said, he was not an ambitious man. He felt that the many noble monuments of his piety and benevolence that are left behind

"Such roofs as plety could raise

And only vocal with the Maker's praise," obstacles to overcome, but he brought to disposed to take any less. stepping-stones to his greatest victories. new Government. And so great was the confidence inspired by his strength of character, and so even If we may judge from the tone of a letwere the results of his line of action, that ter, addressed to us by a correspondent,

a portfolio for a few months, and was unceremonously ejected from office, since which event no other Irish Catholic could gain admission. We now rejoice one fitted to rise to exalted rank in the that none of our people were connected with the disgraced government. In the meantime we shall keep an eye on the his mission was here, he knew that here | gentlemen now engaged in forming the he could best serve his Master and that new administration and should the same here he could do most good for his ex- line of conduct be adopted by them that iled fellow-countrymen and their de- was followed by their predecessors, they scendants. How well he discharged the may expect to hear from us soon after. duties of that mission is to be seen in With such men as the Hon. Mr. Flynn charmed circle. Flinging a few crumbs to hungry hangers-on, as Mr. Mercier did, will not suit the Irish Catholics of difficult problems to solve, many great | fair play, we ask for no more and are not

bear against them an indomitable will | Since the above was written we are and a spirit which no reverses could appleased to find that two Irish Catholics, peal. Of the purity of his motives Hon, Messrs, Flynn and Hearn, have and the strength of his convictbeen sworn in as Members of the Cabinet. tions there never was a doubt, and of We venture to predict that the Irish those problems and difficulties he made I Catholic vote will be almost a unit for the judices are happily melting before the

THE LATE FATHER DOWN

his congregation came to hold the idea, e'sewhere printed, there appears to be grow to be almost a lesser article of taith minds of some people as to the general]

THE CABINET DISMISSED. On the interim report sent in by heir Honors Justices Davidson and Baby, His Honor Mr. Justice Jette being guided men gave rein to their religious to ill to take part in the preparation of animosities, Father Dowd never for an the document, the Lieutenant-Governor has seen fit to dismiss Mr. Mercier and dence of those most bitterly opposed to his colleagues, as being n conger worthy the faith he professed. And when, in of his confidence. The Baie des Chaleurs seandal was the rock on which the late administration came to grief. Mr. Pacaud pounced upon the sum of \$100,000 and vied with their Catholic fellow citizens the public are aware of how the plunder was distributed amongst members of the cabinet and their friends. The evidence was first brought out under the discussion of the bill, in the committee of the Senate, for the incorporation of the Bare des Chaleurs Railway under a Dominion charter, which they desired, in addition to the powers they had obtained from the Legislature of this Province. The evidence there was crushing, but His Honor wished not to act precipitately and ordered a Royal Commission, where the Govern ment of the Province could justify themselves, if it were in their power to do so. If anything were wanting in the evidence before the Senate to incriminate the cabinet, it was supplied before the Royal Commission. Mr. Mercie, has been turned out of office and his first act has solent and abusive decaption to the Lien-Under his ministration men and wor tenant-Governor. In addition, he men have grown from childhood to age, made a speech on Friday evening last at and to them his loss is irreparable. The the Bonsecours Hall which must alienate attachment between him and his flock from him the sympathy of all right was founded on the most sincere fatherly | thinking men. His viie utterances love on his part, the most profound against Hon. Lt.-Gov. Angers stamp him reverential affection on theirs. Indeed, as one unworthy of any consideration. it would be impossible to express in The conduct of the administration during language that would not seem over the past four years has been reckless in wrought, the feelings of the Irish Catho- the extreme. The provincial debt has lies on this mournful occasion. They swollen to enormous dimensions, and the knew that the moving principle through- ill-gotten gains of public plunderers has out his long and laborious life was to been flaunted in the faces of the people look after their eternal welfare. They of the province. Such a state of things knew that he cherished no ambi- could not last, and, unless public sentition beyond the circle that circumscribed ment be lost, the end of the Mercier re-

question and principles of the constitu-; that will sanctify it forever, is ended, the superior power. There need, however, He is gone to his reward. We ail feel be no doubt upon that subject. The right, howpoor are the greatest tribute, we can and in vertain cases, duty, of the King or Catholic frith and Catholic virtue are is undoubted and unquestionable. The such summary treatment, or have re- house to house, but unargumentative epistle addressed that Mr. Angers has had the "audacity" to do what the Queen "would never have dared to do in England, without provoking a revolution." Circumstances alter cases, and such an occasion as the present could nover arise in England. But for much less thing else. As far as modern precedent is concerned, no further reference is ne- | will be held strictly in confidence.) cessary than to the case of Lord Palmerston who, in 1849, was practically dismissed summarily by the Sovereign for knowledge and sanction. He received a very stinging memorandum from the pose by the Provincial authorities or Queen, and saved himself by promptl of constitutional government as carried into a farce, and, as is seen in the present instance, at times into a noxious farce, but the principle must be accepted in its entirety, and that principle gives the Lieutenant-Governor full power to dismiss his advisers. If the public feel a confidence in them that their immediate superior does not, it is for them to assert it. It follows, as a matter of course, that this dismissal of the ministry will be speedily followed by a general election. Meantime the Province of Quebec will be governed by a cabinet composed as

C. B. De Boucherville, premier and president of the council; T. C. Casgrain. that duty, and they beheld from year to gime has been enacted. The Irish Catho- attorney-general; G. A. Nantel, comment that ever came to mankind from year with what untiring faithfulness he lies of the province have no reason to mission of public work; E. J. Flynn, the throne of too. And to-day, and fulfilled it. Three times, it is said, he discordant noises of a harsh, material civilization, the words—"This day a rather to labor as the simple parish of the harbor of the bate departure of the late commissioner of crown lands; S. S. Hall, left on Pasteur, ace Fiore Landry, Masking-onge; Sour Marie de la Salette, nee declined the offer of a mitre, preferring premier from power. During all the provincial treasurer; Louis Beaubien, Maria Normandeau, of Montreal; Sour Marie de St. Pietre, nee Mary Aun Gor. W. Street, 29 Bleury.

W. Street, 29 Bleury.

priest of St. Patrick's in Montreal than fulfil his promise to give us representa- tier, provincial secretary; L. R. Masson, tion in the cabinet. Mr. McShane held L. O. Taillon, J. McIntosh, ministers without portfolio.

HON, FRANK SMITH.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Catholic Record, of London, Ont., gives currency to the rumor that the Hon. Frank Smith is likely to be appointed to the position of Lieutentant-Governor of Ontario, when the term of His Honor Sir Alexander Campbell shall have expired. Should the rumor prove true, we unhesitatingly say that the Dominion Governand others, there can be no excuse for ment will have done an act of instice. for the exclusion of our element from the which it will receive the grateful thanks of the Irish Catholics of the Dominion. No name could be nominated that would be more acceptable to the people of On-In his time Father Dowd had many the Province of Quebec. Let us have tario, without distinction of race and creed. At the same time, it must be ack-owledged that our people do not, in many instances, get fair play, and when a gentleman of the prominence of the Hon, Frank Smith is given a promotion, well deserved though it be, it is only right to signalize it as proof that old pregenial sunshine of true liberality.

READING CIRCLES.

The establishment of what are termed reading circles" has been attended with a great deal of success in several Catholic parishes in the United States and judging many years. He entered the service of from the reports of their progress, they the School commissioners in 1871, and might well become an institution in this continued there until 1887. He thus country. Many a mral district would derive benefit from the establishment of such associations. The plan is very simple, and the following is a synopsis of the constitution of one of these circles, or clubs, as existing in the State of New York, though, of course, it may readily be seen that the scheme admits of variations which may be best a lapted for this or that locality . -

Each member payshifty coms i'r initiation, and an annual fee of one dollar. This money is used in buying books, The dysleaf of each book contains a printed list of members, arranged according presidence. To every member is sent one or two books, to be retained two weeks, and then to be passed to the one whose name stands next on the list, priest of Pertin was celebrated on the The books are passed the hast and blub in St. Bridget's Church, Burgess. The books are passed the lost and the dates when received and passed neted by each. Twolicy, P.P., Westport. In the sanctional results of the received and passed neted by each than the sanction of the received fractions of the member. In forming a cabit is accessary to avoid the deavy reading, which P.P., Smith's Falls, Duffus, P.P., Perth and soon assectingle all but those above the average literary taste. Many timid persons might be deterred from joining a clabem which too much individual effect would be required; and that "Father Dowd was right," which some misapprehension existing in the the object in starcing being to interest all, this is a good reason for suggesting a in the sanctuary we noticed Fathers plan which will give each one an opportunity of becoming conversant with ably assisted by Father O'Connor. At But now, his long life, full of deads tional aspect of dismissal of ministers by Catholic literature without the necessity of frequent discussion or public reading. Any one desiring to purchase a club-book at the close of the year may do so at half the first cost. Works of detion pay to his memory, but his name and his Queen for the time being, as the case should be circulated with a more solid M. J. Spratt and Killeen. memory will be cherished as long as may be, to dismiss the ministry for cause work. Only two officers are required, a Hibrarian and a treasurer. To the cibrarian is assigned the labor of selecting the list of books by Untionic authors, and whom he devoted himself with he stand come more and more rare, does not touch the arranging of the names of members the principle. It simply indicates that to be pasted in each book with a view to ministries and ministers have not needed the speedy tensier of the books from to Canada when quite young with other

signed office when their conduct placed. There is nothing in this machinery of British Columbia, and J. J. Tierney, them in danger of it. But for superficial and procedure beyond the powers of any of Nepean. The funeral took place on readers of history to assume that there- ordinary patish. So far as secular books | Tucsday of this week, from his son's refore the power of the sovereign in this of merit are concerned, they can be connection is any less than it always has bought very cheaply, in bits, on applicabeen, is abserd. It may be noticed that tion to Mudie's, the great London lend-Mr. Mereier, in his remarkably insulting, ing library, who dispose of their enermous stock for a mere tride after the to the Lieutenant-Covernor, makes some books have had a certain time to circuallusion to English precedent, and asserts late and to pay for themselves. Parish priests could arrange for the selection of healthy literature for the "circles." The experiment should be tried.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(The columns of the TRUE WITNESS are open than is attributed to the present local to correspondents writing on subjects of intergovernment, a ministry in England would lest. But it must be understood that no letter not only have been dismissed, but some- inserted is to be regarded as representing the opinions of the paper. Anonymous letters will not be noticed, though the names of writers ing from St. Patrick's Church. It was

To the Editor of The True Witness:

Sig,-May I ask, whether, in the event of its being proved that money, voted by having communicated certain opinions the Dominion Government and conseto the French ambassador without her quently by the people of Canada, has been diverted from its legitimate purtheir agents, the Federal authorities can stop the amount from the next annual resigning. Here in this Province the form | allowance or subsidy paid the Province

by the people of the country at large.
I remember that, at the time of the Leon by the Queen and Parliament is fol-tellier affair, the Conservatives at Ottawa. lowed. To a great extent it degenerates during the debate on the question, said that the Crown had no power or right to dismiss the Cabinet. Special stress was haid on this during the fathous "all-night debate in 1878," and also in the course of the discussion after the accession to transcript Sin Live Market and Street, next to Craig. sion to power of Sir John Macdonald—a discussion which resulted in the dismissal of Mr. Letellier de St. Just. It seems hard to believe that after this verbal demonstration of constitutional usage a repetition of an unconstitutional act

St. Lin. Dec. 22nd.

should be attempted.

Profession.

IN Dorber.

Rev. Canon Racicot on Sunday morning in the Good Shepherd chapel, rece ved, before a large gathering, the protession of the following ladies as novices Sister Marie de St. Guillaume, nee Emelia Mayer, of Guillaume; Sour Marie du

man, of St. Sophie; Sœur Marie de B Joseph de Bethleem, nee Emeline Ben-chemin La Baie du Febvre. The follow chemin La Baie du l'ebvre. Thefollowing took the veil: Marguerite Helene McKerron, of Halifax, Sister Marie de St. Joseph de Sacre Cour; Marie Champagne, of Lanoraie. Sister Marie de St. Viateur; Adeline Montreuil of St. Forg. Sister Marie des Victoires; Josephine Martin St. Stanishs. Sister Marie de 3t. Sister Marie des Victoires; Josephine Martin, St. Stanislas, Sister Marie de St. Philemon; Josephine Lemieux, of St. Georges, Sister Marie de St. Mathias; Alexina Ducheneau, of Ste. Ceile de Milton, Sister Marie de St. Cajetan; Hermine St. Germain, of Montreal, Sister Mavie de St. Irenee; Celina Chenette, of Lanoraie, Sister Marie de St. Anaclet.

OBITUARY.

Evans.

Another of the old business men of Another of the old observes men of Montreal city passed away on Friday in the person of Mr. W. C. Evans, of 15 Plateau street. Mr. Evans was born in the county of Athlone, Ireland, in the year 1815, and his parents removed to Canada when he was about 2 years of age. The greater part of his seventy-three years of life was spent in Montreal, where he attained prominence in business circles. He was for many years connected with the firm of Anderson, Evans & Co., general merchants, St

Keegan.

The death is announced of Mr. Andrew Keegan, the oldest school teacher amongst our Irish fellow-citizens. Mr. Keegan was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1811, and came to Canada in 1850. He had spent some time in Newark, N. J. but having come on a visit to Montreal opened a school here and taught for taught for thirty-eight years. He leaves four sons and three daughters and a host of friends to mourn his loss.

Abbe Normandin.

The death is announced of Rev. Abbe Normandin, of Lachenaic, at the age of 79 years. The deceased gentlman had been a priest for fifty-live years. He was at one time vicar of Notre Dame, afterwards a director of Chambly and L'Assomption colleges, chaplain of the Ladies of the Sacred Heart at their mother house, and then care of Lachenare, which he resigned in 1883. Since that time he had resided

Rev. Father O'Donohoe.

A Solomn Requiem Mass was offered for the eternal repose of the soul of the late Father O Donohoe the beloved O'Rourke, P.P., Carreton Place and Kilben, local pastor. A full choir, assisted by Father O'Connor, rendered the Mass with time effect. At Carlton Place, on the 15th inst., a similar service was held. The celebrant was Father Killeen, and Stanton and O'Rourke. The choir was Santh's Falls, on the 17th inst., a Solemn Requiem Mass was also celebrated in the church of St. Francis de Sales. The officiating priest was Father O'Rourke; in the sanctuary were Fathers Duffus

Tlerney.

The oldest resident of Nepean townsinp, if not of Carleton county, died last week in the person of John Tierney, sr. He was born in Ireland in 1802 and came members of his family. The deceased as the father of Messrs sidence to Fallowfield, where the remains were interred in the family plot. The church was heavily draped in mourning. Rev. Father Sloan officiated, The pall bearers were Messrs. Thos. H. O'Grady, John O'Grady, Thomas Troy, T. O'Grady, A. McKay and Owen Hamell. The funcat was very large notwithstanding the bad weather.

Lady Routh.

Lady Routh, widow of Commissary General Sir Randolph Isham Routh K.C.B., formerly a member of the old Legislative Council, and sister of His Eminence Cardinal Taschereau, died on Wednesday last at the residence of her son, Mr. F. A. Routh. Lady Routh had lived in retirement for some years. She was SI years of age. The funeral of the deceased took place on Saturday more largely attended and a goodly number followed the remains to their last resting place in Cote des Neiges cemetery. Rev. Father Toupin sang Mass, assisted by Rev. Father Fahey. Cardinal Taschereau sang the "Libera," assisted by the Vicar-General and the Cardinal's secretary, Mgr. Marois.

FATHER Down .-- Having made arrangements with Messrs. Notman & Son, the eminent photographers, for the exclusive sale of the photographs of the late Rev. Father Dowd, taken within the last month, I will be able to supply orders

The straighter a man takes his whiskey," said a temperance lecturer,

the crookeder it seems to make him."

New Music.-The New Detroit, the hance of the day. Columbus' Grand March; Darkies' Dream, all 10c., or 11c. mail. Also, Holst's grand new March, On to the Battle, 20c., by composer of Vera. Ilma, Diana Waltzes, all 20c. each. Also the famous dance, the Waltz Quadrille, 20c. Also ready, our cheap edition of the famous song, "The Picture