

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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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 greeting 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 pleasures bring.

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.

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

FATHER DOWD.

of some men it has been said that their works were for a time, of others that their words were for all time, but of Father Dowd it can truly be said that his works are for eternity.

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

But it is not any section of the Catholics, 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 a common sorrow.

Even when sectarian disputations ran high, and when over-zealous and misguided men gave rein to their religious animosities, Father Dowd never for an instant forfeited the respect or the confidence of those most bitterly opposed to the faith he professed.

And if today those differences are held with less discourtesy, while all classes live together in greater harmony and toleration of each other's views and 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 earnest advocate.

Under his ministrations men and women have grown from childhood to age, and to them his loss is irreparable. The attachment between him and his flock was founded on the most sincere fatherly love on his part, the most profound reverential affection on theirs.

In these days we realize the awful sublimity of the most wonderful announcement that ever came to mankind from the throne of God. And to-day, amid the discordant noises of a harsh, material civilization, the words—"This day a

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 word— 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.

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 fright, 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 Christmas Day.

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priest of St. Patrick's in Montreal than 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 one fitted to rise to exalted rank in the Church. But, as we have said, he was not an ambitious man. He felt that his mission was here, he knew that here he could best serve his Master and that here he could do most good for his exiled fellow-countrymen and their descendants.

Such roofs as pity could raise And only vocal with the Maker's praise,"

In his time Father Dowd had many difficult problems to solve, many great obstacles to overcome, but he brought to bear against them an indomitable will and a spirit which no reverses could appeal. Of the purity of his motives and the strength of his convictions there never was a doubt, and of those problems and difficulties he made stepping-stones to his greatest victories.

If we may judge from the tone of a letter, addressed to us by a correspondent,



THE LATE FATHER DOWD.

his congregation came to hold the idea that "Father Dowd was right," which grew to be almost a lesser article of faith among them.

But now, his long life, full of deeds that will sanctify it forever, is ended. He is gone to his reward. We all feel how poor are the greatest tributes we can pay to his memory, but his name and his memory will be cherished as long as Catholic faith and Catholic virtue are held in reverence among the people to whom he devoted himself with heart and soul.

THE CABINET DISMISSED.

On the interim report sent in by their Honors Justices Davidson and Baby, His Honor Mr. Justice Lett being to fill to take part in the preparation of the document, the Lieutenant-Governor has seen fit to dismiss Mr. Mercier and his colleagues as being no longer worthy of his confidence. The Baire de Chateaux scandal was the rock on which the late administration came to grief.

Mr. Mercier, in his remarkably insulting, but unargumentative epistle addressed to the Lieutenant-Governor, makes some allusion to English precedent, and asserts 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 never arise in England.

But for much less than is attributed to the present local government, a ministry in England would not only have been dismissed, but something else. As far as modern precedent is concerned, no further reference is necessary than to the case of Lord Palmerston who, in 1849, was practically dismissed summarily by the Sovereign for having communicated certain opinions to the French ambassador without her knowledge and sanction.

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fulfil his promise to give us representation in the cabinet. Mr. McShane held a portfolio for a few months, and was unceremoniously ejected from office, since which event no other Irish Catholic could gain admission. We now rejoice that none of our people were connected with the disgraced government. In the meantime we shall keep an eye on the gentlemen now engaged in forming the new administration and should the same line of conduct be adopted by them that was followed by their predecessors, they may expect to hear from us soon after.

With such men as the Hon. Mr. Flynn and others, there can be no excuse for the exclusion of our element from the charmed circle. Flinging a few crumbs to hungry hangers-on, as Mr. Mercier did, will not suit the Irish Catholics of the Province of Quebec. Let us have fair play, we ask for no more and are not disposed to take any less.

Since the above was written we are pleased to find that two Irish Catholics, Hon. Messrs. Flynn and Hearn, have been sworn in as Members of the Cabinet. We venture to predict that the Irish Catholic vote will be almost a unit for the new Government.

If we may judge from the tone of a letter, addressed to us by a correspondent,

tier, provincial secretary; L. R. Masson, 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 Lieutenant-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 Government will have done an act of justice, for 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 Ontario, without distinction of race and creed.

At the same time, it must be acknowledged 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 prejudices are happily melting before the genial 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 from the reports of their progress, they might well become an institution in this country.

Each member pays fifty cents for initiation and an annual fee of one dollar. This money is used in buying books. The object of each book is to contain a printed list of members arranged according to residence. To every member is sent one or two books, to be returned two weeks, and then to be passed to the one whose name stands next on the list.

Books are passed the first and second of every month, and the dates when received and passed noted by each member. In forming a club it is necessary to avoid a heavy reading, which would soon discourage all but those about the average literary taste.

Many times persons might be deterred from joining a club which too often includes a list of authors, and the arranging of the names of members to be passed in each book with a view to the speedy transfer of the books from house to house.

There is nothing in this machinery and procedure beyond the powers of any ordinary parish. So far as secular books of merit are concerned, they can be bought very cheaply, in lots, on application to Muller's, the great London lending library, who dispose of their enormous stock for a mere trifle after the books have had a certain time to circulate 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 to correspondents writing on subjects of interest. But it must be understood that no letter inserted is to be regarded as representing the opinions of the paper.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS: Sir,—May I ask, whether, in the event of its being proved that money, voted by the Dominion Government and consequently by the people of Canada, has been diverted from its legitimate purpose by the Provincial authorities or their agents, the Federal authorities can stop the amount from the next annual allowance or subsidy paid the Province by the people of the country at large.

It is a matter of course, that after this verbal demonstration of constitutional usage a repetition of an unconstitutional act should be attempted.

St. Leo, Dec. 22nd. IN DUBIT.

Profession.

Rev. Canon Racicot, on Sunday morning in the Good Shepherd chapel, received before a large gathering, the profession of the following ladies as novices: Sister Marie de St. Guillaume, nee Emelia Meyer, of Guillemin; Sister Marie du Bon Pasteur, nee Freg. Landry, Muskogee; Sister Marie de la Salette, nee Maria Normandin, of Montreal; Sister Marie de St. Pierre, nee Mary Ann Gou-

man, of St. Sophie; Sœur Marie de St. Joseph de Bethleem, nee Emeline Beauchemin La Baie du Febvre. The following took the veil: Marguerite Helene McKerron, of Halifax, Sister Marie de St. Joseph de Sacre Coeur; Marie Marie de Lanoraie, Sister Marie de St. Viateur; Adeline Victoire de St. Foye, Sister Marie des Trois; Josephine Philémon; Josephine Lemieux, of St. Georges; Sister Marie de St. Mathias; Alexandra Ducheneau, of Ste. Cecile de Milton; Sister Marie de St. Cajetan; Hermine St. Germain, of Montreal; Hermine Marie de St. Irene; Celina Chenette, of Lanoraie, Sister Marie de St. Anaclet.

OBITUARY.

Evans.

Another of the old business 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 1818, and his parents removed to Canada when he was about 2 years of age.

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Abbe Normandin.

The death is announced of Rev. Abbe Normandin, of Lachenaie, at the age of 79 years. The deceased gentleman had been a priest for fifty-five 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 curé of Lachenaie, which he resigned in 1883.

Rev. Father O'Donohoe.

A Solemn Requiem Mass was offered for the eternal repose of the soul of the late Father O'Donohoe the beloved priest of Perth, was celebrated on the 19th in St. Bridget's Church, Burgess. The celebrant was the Rev. Father Twomey, P.P., Westport.

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Lady South.

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FATHER DOWD.

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 after to-day. Price, 50c. each, mailed free. J. T. HENDERSON, 139 St. Peter street, next to Craig.

The straighter a man takes his

The straighter a man takes his whiskey, said a temperance lecturer, "the crookeder it seems to make him."

New Music.

New Music.—The New Detroit, the dance of the day. Columbus' Grand March; Darkies' Dream, all 10c., or 15c. mail. Also, Holst's grand new March, On to the Battle, 20c., by composer of Vera. Hma, Diana Waltzes, all 20c. each. Also the famous dance, the Waltz Quadrille, 20c. Also ready, our cheap edition of the famous song, "The Picture that is Turned Towards the Wall," 10c., and the old bass song, "The Diver," 10c. W. STREET, 20 Bleury.