

Branch No. 4, London, Meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month...

O. M. B. A.

Assessments 4 and 5 have been issued, calling for the payment of beneficiaries for twenty-nine deaths...

New Branch.

Branch No. 124 was organized at Cedar Vale, Biddeford Township, Ont., by District Deputy Charles Stock...

The Deputy was very ably assisted by Brother Thomas Quirk, of Branch No. 113, Stratford...

The Branch starts with sixteen charter members, who seem determined to conduct their branch business in such a manner as to leave no room for fault-finding...

Too much praise cannot be given to our friend Mr. Patrick J. O'Shea, to whose indefatigable exertions Branch 124 owes its origin...

When the Branch was organized a vote of thanks, accompanied by a nice present, was tendered Mr. O'Shea by the members...

Following is the list of officers: Spiritual Director—John Connolly; President—Arthur J. Leman...

Resolutions of Condolence.

At a regular meeting of Branch 84, Montreal, held March 19th, 1890, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to remove from the mortal life of Brother P. H. Murphy his infant daughter, aged four months...

Resolved, That the members of Branch 84, C. M. B. A., do hereby extend their hearty sympathy and sincere condolences to the bereaved family...

Resolved, That a copy of this heartfelt testimonial of sympathy and condolence be forwarded to Brother Murphy, to the Catholic Record and to the C. M. B. A. Monthly by the Recording Secretary...

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CATHOLIC vs ANTI-CATHOLIC READING.

The Most Rev. John Walsh, D. D., Archbishop of Toronto, strenuously advises Catholics to read Catholic papers. His words are full of significance...

Our clergy should also encourage their people to take well-conducted Catholic newspapers. As it is a number of families that cheap weekly newspapers, which ill-taken they do not contain a single friendly word towards the Catholic Church...

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LOUIS VEUILLOT.

From the (London) Month—1883.

Death, which has been unusually busy of late with famous names in France, has at last broken, after long years of honorable strife and amid expressions of regret from all parts of Christendom, the sharpest weapon ever wielded by laymen in the service of the Church...

That is one secret of his literary pre-eminence. Another is to be found in his possession of a gift, rarer than is generally supposed, of first sight. No man was endowed in a higher degree with an instinctive and unerring perception of the precise meaning and exact force of words than Veulliot. Often a single word or pithy phrase will do his work for him...

Of one such page, impregnated with judgment, pronounced a sound verdict, Sainte Beuve, has said that nothing finer is to be found in the whole range of French literature. And Veulliot was a poet too, a born poet. Though he never dabbled in verse till well on in life, he has left lines behind him that call to mind and will even challenge comparison with the poems of Victor Hugo...

How comes it then, it will be asked, that the author of Les Parfums de Rome, and its pendant Les Fleurs de Paris—there are passages in the former unsurpassed by Gibbon, and the latter reveals powers of observation keen as those of Balzac or a Dickens—was never numbered amongst the immortal Forty? It Veulliot, like Balzac and Milliers himself, failed to attain to the honors of the Academy, the failure was due to no lack of literary merit but to this, amongst other reasons, that he himself sought shelter more willingly under the dome of St. Peter's than under the cupels of the Institute...

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fact that he owed whatever merit he possessed as a writer in great measure to the assiduous perusal of Bossuet and Voltaire, two of the greatest, if not the greatest, masters of French style, whose works he had got off by heart in his youth, and we know that in later life he took the trouble, with a view to perfecting himself as a writer, to make himself master of the Latin language.

That is one secret of his literary pre-eminence. Another is to be found in his possession of a gift, rarer than is generally supposed, of first sight. No man was endowed in a higher degree with an instinctive and unerring perception of the precise meaning and exact force of words than Veulliot. Often a single word or pithy phrase will do his work for him. With a single word he will fill or fog an adversary, tear the mask from the face of a hypocrite, paint a character, dissipate an error, redress a wrong, silence a scoffer, damn a bad or indifferent book, tickle the fancy or bring the tears to the eyes of his readers. Take up any one of his many books—there are few which cannot show valid claims to be considered masterpieces—turn over the pages of his incomparable *Ca et La*, or *Rome et Lovette*, or the *Parfums de Rome*, or the *Fleurs de Suisse*, and you will not have long to wait before you encounter the most delightful surprises, passages of rare beauty and easy grace, in which the author scatters his pearls and glistening diamonds about him with a profusion you would think reckless if it were not always regulated by the most fastidious and scrupulous taste.

Of one such page, impregnated with judgment, pronounced a sound verdict, Sainte Beuve, has said that nothing finer is to be found in the whole range of French literature. And Veulliot was a poet too, a born poet. Though he never dabbled in verse till well on in life, he has left lines behind him that call to mind and will even challenge comparison with the poems of Victor Hugo. But prose was his first and latest love, a prose which his magic touch has clothed with a life, spirit, nerve, sinew, a freshness of grace and splendor of beauty more than sufficient to enliven a man of the French language, if previously he had looked coldly on its charms.

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Catholic brethren in every country of the world. If proof is needed of the feelings of veneration entertained for him by countless friends and admirers it is to be found in his own paper the *Univers*, which since his death has been every day flooded with appreciative and affectionate letters, not from France alone but from all parts of Christendom, all testifying to the profound regret felt for his loss, as for that of a personal friend, by men and women of every nationality and of every class and condition in life.

It is unquestionably this very thoroughness of the man, an age of compromise and exaggerated toleration, the wonderful energy of his character, the unflinching rectitude of his soul, the inexorable logic of his mind, the absolute devotion of his loyal heart to Catholic truth, more even than his unrivalled powers as a polemical writer, which explain at once the great influence he exerted and the unmeasured hatred he excited. The *Univers*, moreover, of truth against falsehood, of virtue against iniquity, in which from the day of his own conversion to God these high qualities were enlisted, is, as it always has been and ever will be, the most unpopular of all causes, and the weapons which he judged it necessary and which his great gifts, natural or acquired, helped him to employ with such telling effect, were amongst the means the least calculated to conciliate the good will of his opponents. Satire and ridicule are in no country a passport to favor, least of all in France where ridicule is absolutely fatal. But Veulliot had no special call or desire, at any period of his polemical career, to resort to the facile or declining ill-will of his foes. What rightly or wrongly, he wanted, was not to conciliate, but to shame into silence the enemies of Catholicism, and few will deny that his efforts in this direction were attended by a very fair measure of success.

He wrote from the hands of his adversaries and turned against themselves the weapons of their own shoddy, but which he knew how to wield to infinitely better purpose, with the familiar result that they were hoist with their own petard. Whether the use he made of these his favorite tactics was or was not occasionally excessive and indiscriminate, so as in the end to have wrought harm as well as good, many even if they do not decide the case pronouncing against him, will so readily pronounce in an open question; but, surely, it is only fair before we utterly condemn his so-called trenchancy to judge it not by the standards which prevail in our own country, but by the light of the religious controversies and the state of parties which prevailed, and still prevail, and by the standard of the journalistic warfare is conducted on both sides, in his.

LATEST CATHOLIC NEWS.

With the consent of the Japanese Government the Pope has determined to appoint a Metropolitan at Tokio with four suffragan Bishops, the Church being very prosperous in that country.

Bismarck has recently become more actively friendly with the Holy Father. In a despatch he requests the Pope's opinions and recommendations as to the details of the restitution to the Catholic clergy of the sums sequestered during the Kulturkampf. It is said that the Emperor wrote personally to the Pope on the close connection of his proposed state socialism with the Christian socialism embodied in the papal allocutions.

Since the accession of Leo XIII. to the Pontifical throne, twelve years ago, nearly the whole College of Cardinals has been renewed. The number of deaths in the period amounts to sixty-four, beginning with the death of Cardinal St. Marc, seven days after the accession of Leo XIII. and ending with that of Cardinal Gunglauer, Archbishop of Vienna, on Dec. 14th, 1890. There are at present sixty four Cardinals in the Sacred College, which, being divided according to their nationalities, show as follows: Italian, 24; French, 8; German, Austrian and Polish, 9; Spanish and Portuguese, 6; Belgian, 1; American, 1; Canadian, 1; English, 3; Cardinals Howard, Manning and Newman; Australia, 1—Cardinal Moran—Ez.

Dr. Berliner, professor of the Rabbinical Seminary of Berlin, thus testifies to the liberality with which Pope Leo XIII. opens to historical research the precious documents of the Vatican. His letter appears in the *Moniteur de Rome*. He is the editor of the *Moniteur de Rome* to add my name to the names of those who think it well to thank the administration of the Vatican archives for its ready aid and liberality to the learned in utilizing historic treasures. I have had occasion to visit these archives twelve times since 1873, and I think I have never time to speak on the subject. History, grateful for the precious material which is brought to light from these archives, will recognize how much it is indebted to the improvements introduced under the Pontificate of Leo XIII. with the object of facilitating and rendering more expeditious the use of the archives.

HOME RULE.

THE BATTLE FOR A PARLIAMENT IN COLLEGE GREEN.

Mr. Vasey Knox, the newly elected Protestant Nationalist member of Parliament for West Galway, is a graduate and Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford. He is distinguished as a man of literary taste and ability, and he will be at once a leading member of and an ornament to the Nationalist party.

The Land Purchase Bill, brought before Parliament by Mr. Balfour, is the first attempt made by the Tories to solve the Irish problem and to do a modicum of justice to the people. By the Bill no landlord is compelled to sell, but should he do so he will receive the value of his estate in bonds, exchangeable for consols.

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