

# The True Witness

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

MR. DALTON MCCARTHY does not like the priests of Quebec; at least such is his own statement. We are sorry to learn that the great Equal Righter is so very narrow-minded and prejudiced. However, we can assure Mr. McCarthy that the priests of Quebec do not reciprocate; in fact they have no ill feeling toward that gentleman; they have learned to preach and to practise that grand Christian precept that ordains the love of our enemies. They are perfectly prepared to return good for evil, and to pray for Mr. McCarthy's temporal as well as spiritual happiness. In fact he would be surprised to learn that actually every priest in the Province daily offers up petitions to heaven in his behalf. He may doubt the statement, but we assure him it is no exaggeration. It is too bad that Mr. McCarthy should strive to blame the poor priests for what the leaders of a great political party did to him. The priests never ignored Mr. McCarthy, nor did they neglect to offer him a portfolio, nor did they omit to consult him in the formation of Cabinets. Why does not Mr. McCarthy say that he don't like the political leaders who felt their party much safer and more solid without the firebrand assistance of this religious agitator? The priests of Quebec will continue to pray for Mr. McCarthy as well as for all other enemies of the Church; but the Catholics of this Dominion and the fair-minded Protestants—who are so numerous—do not at all feel bound to support that gentleman, nor are they very likely to turn the left cheek when he slaps them upon the right one. He says the priests of Quebec wish to set up a separate nationality on the banks of the St. Lawrence. What kind of nationality does he mean? We have French, Irish, English, Scotch, Belgian, Italian, German and American priests in this Province. The only kind of nationality they could set up would be a cosmopolitan one—and such is what we want and what we possess in the Dominion to-day. "Whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad;" we don't wish to say that Mr. McCarthy is mad, or to insinuate that the gods have anything to do with him; but, evidently, he has become possessed—we mean of a very unpatriotic spirit and one that will haunt him when he will be unable to exorcise it.

THE assassination of Mr. Carter H. Harrison, Mayor of Chicago, which took place on Saturday evening last, is one of the most deplorable events that we have had for a long time to record. Almost at the close of the great World's Fair, just when success was crowning that mighty enterprise, the red hand of murder comes to plunge the whole community, and in fact the whole civilized world, in gloom and consternation. Three times have leading public officials in the United States fallen victims to the mad spirit that seems to lurk in certain social grades, and to make itself manifest when

least expected. President Lincoln's sad end at Ford's Theatre, when the assassin John Wilkes Booth shot him dead; President Garfield, at the Potomac Railway Depot, when the crank Guiteau emptied his murderous weapon in statesman's body; and now the Mayor of Chicago—who this year at least—is as conspicuous a character in the eyes of the world, as even the President of the Republic, falls a prey to the insane wickedness of a murderous character. It is difficult to contemplate such an act without a shudder. Who is safe—in future? What inducement can there be to draw patriotic citizens to accept positions of honor and responsibility at the hands of the country? In the "Land of Freedom," in the great Republic where every liberty is accorded to the citizen, the representatives of the people are not even as safe as is the Czar of Russia surrounded by Nihilists, and threatened daily with bombs. In fact the Russian potentate is more secure, because he is forearmed and on the alert. It is time that the American Legislature should see to the tightening of the laws, and the prevention of liberty degenerating into license. This mournful event is a mighty lesson, and they should see to it that it is taken to heart.

THE TRUE WITNESS desires to express its sympathy for the relatives and friends of the late Rev. E. Botterell, the venerable and aged minister, who met such a tragic death last week on St. Catherine street. The accident should be a severe lesson to the street car people and to their employees. It is indeed sad to contemplate a long life of eighty-one years, spent most virtuously, and devoted to labor and charity, being terminated in such a shocking and unexpected manner. The large funeral and the representative men present speak volumes for the popularity and esteem which the deceased enjoyed. May it be a long day before such another sad event darkens our history.

WE PUBLISH this week a manly, straightforward and Christian letter signed by the Protestant ministers of Columbus, Ohio, in which they denounce the A. P. A. and refute the slanders that are being circulated regarding Roman Catholics. The letter is one that does credit to these Reverend gentlemen and speaks powerfully for the Christian spirit that animates them. While declaring their opposition to Catholicity, still they refuse to be party to slander, forgery, misrepresentation and lies.

POOR FERDINAND DE LESSEPS is now on the verge of life's extreme and perhaps by the time this issue of our paper will have reached our readers, the "great Frenchman" will be no more. The time is not long gone past when no houses were considered too high for de Lesseps in France. His success in piercing the Isthmus of Suez and creating a regular revolution in the commerce of the world, almost created the impa-

sion, amongst his own fellow-countrymen, of his all-absorbing genius. But Providence was kinder to the old engineer than was man. Loud as were the cheers that greeted his successes at Suez, louder still were the shouts of indignation that thundered around his failures at Panama. The former were as insane and as wild as the latter; both were never entirely deserved. But such is popularity; the hand that waves a palm in the triumphal procession of a conqueror is the first to cast a stone at the fallen hero. But he was saved the melancholy knowledge of this revolution in popular sentiment; broken in body, he became afflicted in mind, and has remained in ignorance of his own shattered fortunes. The fate that to others would be considered most cruel, seems in his case to have been a mercy.

WE CONTINUE this week our series of articles upon the Mass; already have we received many marks of appreciation on this subject. It is our intention to fully analyze the subject and to explain in as simple and exact a style as we can command the different details of that sublime act of worship. To understand the Mass is to know something that no Catholic should ignore, and that if Protestants were to learn would tend greatly to open their eyes to the baselessness of the accusations of superstition and idolatry that are hurled at the Church. The Mass is the *ressure* of Christianity; it is the scene of adoration; it is the most glorious and mysterious link that unites man with God, that binds earth and heaven together.

WE NOTICE of late that several short letters have appeared, from different correspondents, in the American press on the subject of the Catholic Summer School and the non-attendance, or rather small attendance, from Canada during the last session. Already we called attention to this question in our editorial columns. We purpose referring again to this subject in the near future. We have several hints to give our readers that may prove, if properly taken, of benefit to themselves and to that grand project of the Summer School. Next year advantage must be taken of its proximity to Montreal; it is an education that may be obtained cheaply and most pleasantly, and countless other are the benefits to be there derived.

WE desire to again call the attention to the "Afternoon-tea" that will take place at Hall & Scott's rooms, 2289 St. Catherine street, on Saturday next, November 4th, at 4.30 p.m. As already stated, this pleasant re-union, with its concert and amusements, is for the purpose of raising funds to carry on the Free Library. Immense and incalculable is the good already done by the circulation of pure and solid literature; all patrons of this excellent mode of crushing out the crying evil of bad books, should take part in the yearly "Afternoon Tea and

Concert." We trust that on Saturday afternoon the rooms will be filled, and that the enjoyment will be great.

WE CLIP the following from the Pittsburg Catholic, and reproduce it with great pleasure. It seems to apply to Catholic papers in Canada as well as in the United States. We know that it fits our own case at times:

"While we do not claim it to be a duty of the clergyman to help the Catholic paper by giving it the benefit of any item of news which he thinks would benefit the general Catholic public, we believe he would be doing a good and proper work if he did so. The Catholic paper is not perfection. It has its faults. It is always desirous to receive a well meant hint, a forcible suggestion if you prefer, and is ready to profit thereby. We think the Catholic press should have every assistance possible in its work. There should be no obstacle placed in its way to prevent it from receiving reliable information. By means of the Catholic press, in Catholic lines, the Catholic faith is preached to thousands, and presented for acceptance to many who probably would never have any other method of hearing the truth. The value of the press is this that it multiplies teachers. We are in the age of the apostolate of the press. It reaches places where no sermon is ever heard. The amount of good done by the earnest Catholic paper is vast. The majority of the Catholic reading public prefer the newspaper to books. Some people say that it is a greater gain for a Catholic article to appear in a non-Catholic paper than in a Catholic one. This may be denied as false. Non-Catholics who take an interest in Catholic news always go to the Catholic paper to find it out."

EVIDENTLY the Catholics of London are not less in danger, on account of their faith, in our day than were their co-religionists in the days of the saintly Oliver, or the pious Elizabeth. The following item from the Liverpool Catholic Times tells its own story:—

"That a second outrage in a Catholic Church should have followed so closely on the first seems to indicate some pre-concerted plan of action on the part of certain cowardly miscreants in South London. It can hardly have been, as the daily papers suggest, a mere act of revenge on the part of some loafers to whom charity had been refused; the crime savors too much of the Spanish anarchists in their war against the Church. The double attractions of the Rosary Sunday procession and of the first of a course of sermons by the learned preacher, Father David, O.S.F., had filled St. George's cathedral beyond its wont, and had it not been for the presence of mind of both preacher and clergy, panic alone might have produced a most frightful calamity. Providentially the bomb caused no perceptible damage, and the service was brought to a peaceful and decorous close. Unfortunately there is no guarantee against the repetition of the sacrilegious acts save in the arrest of the criminals by the police, a consummation most devoutly to be desired. Meanwhile it can hardly be surprising if a certain sense of disquiet and anxiety pervades the minds of the church-going population of South-wark."

THE Osgreth has been betrothed to the Princess Victoria, second daughter of the Prince of Wales.