

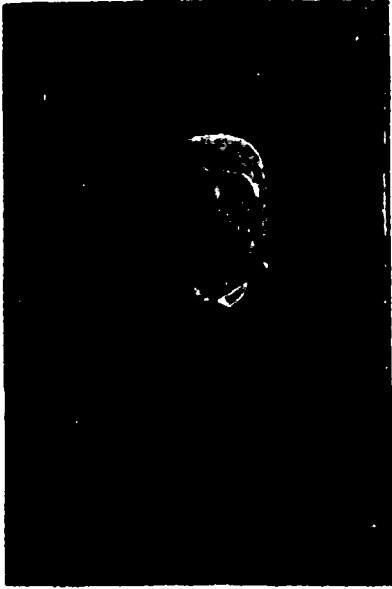
The Catholic Register.

"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest."—BALMEZ.

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TORONTO, THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1895.

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THE GLOBE ON QUEBEC

Mr. Evanturel Gets an Official Opinion.

PROTESTANTS FAIRLY TREATED.

Mr. Evanturel received the following answer from Mr. Gideon Ouimet Superintendent of Public Instruction for Quebec:—"In reply to your letter of March 30th, in which you enclose an editorial taken from the Globe of the same date, I have the honor to inform you that the statements contained therein are not entirely correct, or, at least, they convey erroneous notions if not somewhat modified by explanations. In the first place the facilities for dissent are so great in this Province that those who support our mixed schools do so, in nearly all cases, voluntarily. The statement that mixed schools are distinctly and avowedly Roman Catholic is incorrect. All schools must be conducted in harmony with the regulations of the Roman Catholic or of the Protestant committee. Where there are no dissentient schools the commissioners follow the regulations of the Roman Catholic or of the Protestant committee, according to their choice, which is determined by the majority of the school board. Naturally, when the Protestants are in the majority in any municipality the schools are conducted in accordance with the regulations of the Protestant committee. In all of these schools, whether Roman Catholic or Protestant, children who profess the faith of the minority, whether that minority be Roman Catholic or Protestant, are exempt from all religious instruction or exercises of the schools. While this is not provided for by any law the practice has been long established, and is supported by the department whenever the matter is referred to us. So far the position of the Protestant pupils in the mixed schools which follow the Roman Catholic course of study is precisely similar to that of the Roman Catholic pupils in the Common Schools of Ontario. There is this difference, however, that our Roman Catholic reading books contain selections which distinctly inculcate our faith and support our religious practices. I return to you herewith the editorial which you sent, and shall be glad to give you further information if you desire it."

THE LETAIRE MEDAL.

Mrs. Mary A. Sadlier, the Catholic Writer, is Awarded Notre Dame's Coveted Gift.

A WELL-KNOWN CANADIAN.

The president and faculty of the University of Notre Dame announce that the Letare medal will be conferred this year upon Mrs. Mary A. Sadlier, of Montreal, Can. The medal will be presented to Mrs. Sadlier by Most Rev. Archbishop Fabre, D.D., while the presentation address will be read by Very Rev. Father McGarry, C. S. C., President of St. Laurent College.

The Letare medal, it is generally known, is annually conferred upon some member of the Catholic laity who has been distinguished for important service to the Church or the public. It is the highest honor within the gift of the University of Notre Dame, and it is universally regarded as carrying with it the approbation of the Catholic clergy and laity of America. The medal is a heavy gold piece depending from a bar, and bearing on its obverse side the legend: "Magnæ Veritas, et Prævalebit," together with "Letare Medal," in large letters, and the year of presentation below. The reverse side bears this inscription: "Presented by the University of Notre Dame to Mrs. Mary A. Sadlier in Recognition of Distinguished Services Rendered to the American Catholic Public." Accompanying the medal is an address, printed on rare silk with an appropriate design in painting. The artist has admirably symbolized Mrs. Sadlier's life-work by an open book and cross interwoven with shamrocks.

The value of such a distinction as the Letare medal necessarily depends on the discrimination with which the medalists are chosen, and a cursory glance at the list of those who have already received this honor shows that the high standard established at the foundation of the Letare medal in 1883 has been faultlessly sustained. The first recipient of the honor was John Gilmary Shea, the distinguished historian and scholar. It was then successively conferred on the architect, Patrick Keeley; on Eliza Allen Starr, the well-known art critic, and on General John Newton, the engineer of the Hell Gate explosions. Other recipients were Commendatore P. V. Hickey, Anna Hanson Dorsey, W. J. Onahan, Daniel Dougherty, Henry F. Brownson, Patrick Donahue, and, last year, Augustin Daly. It will be seen that these names constitute the roll of honor of the Church in America, and establish traditions that consecrate the Letare medal.

The name of Mrs. Sadlier is now most happily added to this list. She holds a unique place among the Catholic litterateurs of America, and her life-work, of which we present a sketch below, has been a service which simply deserves recognition. It carries one back to the time when large numbers of Irish boys and girls flocked to our shores seeking service in families where too often their faith was in jeopardy. Priests were few, and for

multitudes of these immigrants the only vehicle of Catholic instruction was a good book. But there was practically no Catholic literature, and Mrs. Sadlier set herself to supply the need. How successfully she performed that duty we need not say. There are thousands of families in the United States that owe the preservation of their faith to her inspiring works, and in this fact lies her claim to the gratitude of the Church as well as of individuals. She made them proud of their faith at a time when it was despised and without honor. She sang of its past glories and prophesied its future victories. She struck the central chord of feeling, and on them played such rare harmonies as strengthened the faith of the friendless immigrants, and steeled their hearts against the temptations that compassed them on all sides.

Mrs. Sadlier, whose maiden name was Mary Ann Madden, is a native of Cooteshill, in County Cavan, Ire., and was born on the closing day of the year 1820. Her father was Francis Madden, a man of refinement and literary tastes, and a highly respected merchant. Her mother, who died when her talented daughter was still a child, shared her husband's love for poetry and the legendary lore of their native land. Business embarrassments and financial troubles hastened Mr. Madden's death, and in 1844 his bereaved daughter came to this country, bringing with her, among her other treasures and relics, a goodly number of old and valuable books, including some rare editions of the English poets which had formerly belonged to her father. In November, 1846 Miss Madden became the wife of Mr. James Sadlier, one of the original partners of the well known publishing house of D. & J. Sadlier & Co., and went to Montreal to reside, her husband being then the representative of his firm in this city. For the ensuing fourteen years Mr. and Mrs. Sadlier remained in Canada, and it was during that period that several of her most successful stories were written; while, in addition to her other literary work, she contributed copiously to the columns of the New York Tablet and other publications. In 1860 his business interests compelled Mr. Sadlier to return to New York, to which city he accordingly removed his family; and he continued to reside there until the date of his untimely death, nine years subsequently.

The first book to appear with Mrs. Sadlier's name as its author was a collection of short stories entitled "Tales of the Olden Time," which issued from the press of John Lovell & Co., Montreal, and met with a very flattering reception from the critics. After this first venture, which proved a financial success, came: "The Red Hand of Ulster," "Willy Burke, a Tale for Boys," and "Alice Riordan," a companion story for girls. The late Dr. Brownson was always a great admirer of "Willy Burke," and readers of Brownson's own writings do not need to be told that it was no easy accomplishment for a woman to win his praises as a story-teller. Among Mrs. Sadlier's other best works are: "The Confederate Chieftains," "The Blakes and Flanagans," "Confessions of an Apostate," "Daughter of Tyrconnell," "MacCarthy More," "Maurice Dhu," "The Hermit of the

Rock," "Bessy Conway," "Ellinor Preston," "New Lights; or Life in Galway," "Con O'Regan," "Aunt Honor's Keepsake," "The Heiress of Kilorgan," "The Old House by the Boyne," "Old and New," "Father Sheehy and Other Tales." There were many others, her novels and translations numbering upward of sixty volumes.

The action of the faculty of Notre Dame, in conferring the Letare medal upon one whose claim to it was so distinct and imperative will doubtless meet with the approbation of the Catholic public. Others with talents like hers have rushed noisily into the public view, and have had their reward in fame or fortune or the other prizes of life. A career of self sacrifice, such as hers, can have no recompense; the only earthly reward worthy of it is the gratitude of those whom she served. Her title to that reward is admirably summed up in the following address which accompanies the medal:

"Friend of the friendless, lady, peace to you
You that in past days fought our fight alone,
Benignant and firm-hearted, while the moan
Of your poor race in exile upward flew,
And found its answer; fresh as morning dew
After parched days—as scent of lilacs blown
When snows are gone—that answer, all our own,
Gave sad hearts joy and kept the tempest true.
'Doubt feared the nimbus incant of your pen;
You showed the exiled race their golden past,
In dreams you raised them from the sordid dross
Of daily toil: you made them live again
In ancient splendor: o'er their lot you cast
The light of hope, and kept them near the cross!"

Home Rule Fund.

The following list, per Dr. McMahon, late of Dundas, has been handed us for publication:

Dr. James McMahon, Dundas	\$12 11
John Enright, " "	10 00
Richard J. Burke, " "	5 00
Monsignor E. J. Heenan, " "	5 00
Rev. P. J. Maddigan, " "	2 00
John Kerwin, " "	2 00
Patrick Green, Hayesland	2 00
J. T. Hourigan, Dundas	1 00
Thomas Hickey, " "	1 00
John Byrne, " "	1 00
Thomas O'Neill, " "	1 00
A. S. Cain, " "	1 00
Patrick O'Connor, " "	1 00
James Hourigan, " "	1 00
Patrick Enright, Flamboro' W	1 00

Total.....\$19 11

This sum, converted into a draft for £10 sterling, has been sent by Dr. McMahon to the Hon. Edward Blake, to be applied in aid of the Irish Parliamentary Fund.

GUIDE TO CONTENTS.

	Page
Protestants in Quebec	1
The Letare Medal to Mrs. Sadlier	1
The Irish Party a Banquet	2
The Judgment of Solomon Applied	3
The White Fathers of the Desert	3
Senator Scott's Letter	4
Society and Local News	4
The Irish World on Mr. Blake	6
The Church in Japan	6
Letters From Bermuda	7
Editorial	8
The Red Silk Handkerchief—Story	10
Officers of Holy Week	12
Irish News Summary	14
Two New Irish Bishops	15
The Church of the Sacred Heart	16