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VOL. XII, No. 13

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1904

PRICE FIVE CENTS

CHRONICLES OF AN OLD-TIMER

Some Canadian Correspondence Lately to Hand Touching Matters Treated by Your Contributor—Some more Interesting Anecdotes of "Father O'Reilly of the Gore"—Some Old Toronto Familiar—"Paddy" Burke the Auctioneer—Death of Edwin Arnold Reminds Old-Timer of his Brother Matthew, the Advocate of the "Celtic Renaissance"—What Recognition will do for the "Vagabond Race" of the historians—A Celtic University in Wales—Some New Works by Irish Authors—Gorrigan's Horse, "McGee," Wins a Triumph in the South.

763 West Madison St.,
Chicago, March 26, 1904.

Dear Register:

I renew my full address in this communication because I find some old friends have been looking for it, and there may be others. Among the correspondents who have lately favored me is an old newspaper confrere who resides in Toronto, but has long been retired from the active field of newspaper publishing, but fortunately for him, is happy without. The gentleman I have reference to is Mr. A. H. St. Germain of Bedford Park, a little north of your city. Mr. St. Germain is now one of the very oldest newspaper men of Ontario, and at one time published a daily newspaper in Toronto, but he began his career in Kingston. He is of French-Canadian stock, but has some Irish sympathies, because his first wife was an Irish lady. In referring to some of my recent contributions to your columns, he is good enough to remark: "You hit the nail on the head. They are my sentiments; our thoughts meander through the same channel. More power to your elbow to enable you to give forth thoughts that will stir up the wrong-doers to reflect and change their conduct towards the oppressed." I am much pleased to have Mr. St. Germain's words of encouragement, but would be more pleased if I knew what particular remarks of mine to which his kind allusions apply. But I suppose they are general.

Two correspondents write me re-arrangement of the manner of the late Father Eugene O'Reilly of the Gore of Toronto. One who does not wish his name made known, remarks: "I read your last contribution to The Register and was amused at your portrayal of the manner of the late 'Father O'Reilly of the Gore.' He came to Guelph once and disappointed the congregation there in a somewhat similar manner to that which you describe as having occurred at Niagara, by concluding his sermon very abruptly."

That he had abrupt ways and said and did things abruptly there is no manner of doubt, as they were much talked about at one time, and it would be worth while to gather them up and put them together as the idiosyncrasies of an old-fashioned "so-garth" of the missionary period.

But that he was a good and well-beloved priest there is no manner of doubt, and I have the proof thereof in a letter from one who served him at the altar and who is remembered by himself. He writes: "Your letters in The Catholic Register are so interesting to me, who can well remember the circumstances (as detailed) which occurred in Toronto, in the fifties and sixties that I cannot resist the temptation to drop you a few lines, as I have done on a previous occasion. Your remarks about Mr. Wiman brings me back to 1857-58, when he ran a news depot at the corner of Jordan and King streets and published a funny little sheet called 'The Grumbler.' I well remember a sort of doggerel rhyme he published on Captain Bob Moodie when he fell out with George Brown because he gave the seat of North Oxford to Mr. William McDougall, whereas Moodie thought he was the man entitled to get it. Brown possibly may have made a mistake, as McDougall's subsequent political career became so

uncertain that he obtained the soubriquet of 'Wandering Willie.' I have heard him speak on several platforms since those days and considered him somewhat erratic, probably because he had on those occasions spoken on the Tory side."

My purpose principally, just now, is to correct your last letter regarding the two Father O'Reillys. It was Father John who was parish priest of Dundas and Father Eugene of Toronto Gore, Albany and Caledon. He it was who baptized the writer away back in 1841 and also the great majority of the Catholic grandfathers and grandmothers of today, who first saw the light in those townships. I can hardly agree with you as to his being a very poor preacher. He certainly was not eloquent, but I am sure he was a fairly good preacher and certainly was beloved by his flock. The writer on many occasions, both in church and at stations, served mass for him away back in the fifties. I may say that whatever his shortcomings might be as a preacher, he excelled as a collector, as he used the blarney with telling effect. I well remember on many occasions when in my boyhood seeing him collect the Christmas and Easter offerings. He never took around a collection plate, but simply stood on the epistle side of the altar and told the congregation that he was ready to accept their offerings. Generally the first man to step forward would be Squire Wallace. Then one would hear, "Well done, Squire Wallace, with your \$5.00." Next, "Well done, William Horan, with your \$5.00; you were never behind." Next, "Well done, Dan Minnock, with your \$5; you'll allow no man to get ahead of you," and so on through the piece, till every male member of the congregation who had the good fortune to be a householder, was up with his offering.

Father Eugene O'Reilly was called to his last account in the summer of 1860, and his death was mourned by the three parishes over which his ministrations extended. He was certainly a loveable parish priest. He was succeeded by Father Mulligan, a gentle, tender-hearted priest, who was transferred from there to Niagara, being succeeded by Father R. A. O'Connor, now the Right Rev. Bishop of Peterborough, a priest who was certainly beloved wherever known."

The writer of the foregoing is Mr. Daniel Sullivan of Malcolm, Ontario, and no doubt will be remembered by many old Torontonians who were in the habit of visiting Patrick Doyle's bookstore, in the old St. Lawrence Arcade, where Mr. Sullivan, then a bright young lad, was employed as an assistant, and I have no doubt is now a man of consequence in his locality.

I have heard it remarked that Father O'Reilly had a fancy for T. D. McGee's poetry and that of that writer's poems, "My Irish Wife," was his favorite that he loved to recite:

I would not give my Irish wife
For all the dames of the Saxon
land—
I would not give my Irish wife
For the Queen of France's hand;
For she to me is dearer
Than castles strong, or lands or
life—
An outlaw—so I'm near her
To love till death my Irish wife.

Father O'Reilly, too, had the peculiarity of mixing Irish words with his English conversation and using the diminutive terms of endearment such as "Keeseen" for leg and the Irish word "glugger" for emptiness. Anyhow, Father O'Reilly was a peculiar but an affectionate character among the Ontario priests of other days.

Patrick Doyle, familiarly known as "Paddy" Doyle, was as well-known as any lay Catholic in the fifties and sixties in Toronto. His little store in the old St. Lawrence Ward was the Irish gossip shop of Toronto. His stock was composed of Catholic and Irish books, tin and wooden ware, pictures, etc., and he did a prettily fair business. He was a good-natured, honest man with a minimum of education, but a powerful lot of language, and a superabundant stock of sympathy. Whenever the holding of money was required for a lecture or entertainment of any kind, he would usually be selected as treasurer. I think he was from the County of Wexford. He fortunately had a thrifty helpmate who assisted at the store, and while "Paddy" would be gossiping seriously, condemning or approving somebody's sayings or doings, the wife would be looking after getting in the dimes. I do not know how long Mr. Doyle is dead, but I believe it is a good many years.

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Mr. Doyle had a rival in business named John Donnelly, on the opposite side of the Arcade, and I am not sure but it was with Mr. Donnelly that Mr. Sullivan was assistant instead of Mr. Doyle. At any rate it will do the "old boys" good to have those two traders and familiar old citizens called to mind, for there were few in those days among our people who did not have transactions of some kind with them.

The book business reminds me of "Paddy" Burke, a traveling auctioneer, whose stock in trade in the early forties was principally books. He was the first man to disseminate Irish and Catholic literature among the Catholics of Upper Canada, and I believe Lower Canada Irish, too. He was said to be unlettered and it was a source of amusement and indignant amazement to some, how he used to describe authors and their works in choice language of his own. Those were the days of the Elcker Dumas, Dickens, Eugene Sue, Lever and Lover, McCauley and the other great writers of the fore part of the nineteenth century, and it would not read, could describe their works with not only accuracy, but wit. He had a store in Toronto and one in Hamilton at different times. His "how a much a woolen" was at times a familiar sound among book-buyers. He was succeeded in Toronto in the bookstore business by Bernard Cosgrove, an intelligent gentleman, who carried on the business in Toronto for many years until his death. Your present day wealthy merchant, Mr. William Dineen, began his business career with Mr. Cosgrove, as clerk in his bookstore. James Wilson, a brother of Thomas Wilson, the partner of Sir Frank Smith, and a son of the late Mrs. Beatty of Hamilton, by her first husband, succeeded Mr. Burke's Hamilton business. I have seen Mr. James Sadler, then of New York, selling his Catholic books at auction in the early fifties, but I think Mr. Burke was before him.

Edwin Arnold is dead. He was one of the particularly bright lights of English literature in the last half of the last century. His sympathies were turned mostly to Asia, and he bestowed his affections largely on India and Japan, in which latter country he gained his wife. His sympathies, too, were largely engaged on the side of Japan, in the titanic struggle now going on between her and Russia.

There was another Arnold, in whose writings I am equally as much interested, if not more so than Edwyn's. I mean Matthew Arnold, who united with the late M. Renan of France, the great scholar and linguist who was a native of Celtic Britain, in advancing the Celtic renaissance, and whose efforts are now bearing fruit. An effort, however is being made by the Anglo-Saxon worshippers like Arnold White, to discount his importance in the world of letters, criticism and thought because of his Celtic sympathies. He has endeavored to have the Celtic and Irish documents that have literary value translated, and published and sometimes called the "eloquent Aaron" because of his belief in the Aryan origin of the people of Ectrope, of whom the Celts were a branch.

Arnold speaking of the Celt recognizes him as "the colossal, impetuous adventurous wanderer," expanding the idea of Renan as "the Titan of the early world, who in primitive times filled so large a place on earth's scene but dwindles and dwindles as history goes on, and at last is shrunk to what we now see him." But what the Celt needs now is a becoming recognition. When his history is sympathetically written he will be found spreading religion and knowledge among the barbarous borders of Europe in the early centuries of our era; he will be found often fighting for liberty and seldom against it; he won Fontenoy for King Louis and Waterloo for King George. It is the partial loss of his identity in the modern mix up that puts him at a disadvantage. It will be found that the individual of the human family who has been look-

ed upon as a vagabond by historians, is the apostle of liberty, the maker of laws and the author of modern progress. It is the Celtic element in the British population that has given it resolution and effect. The American revolution was a Celtic product—and it was Irish aid that largely enabled some of the South American republics to gain their independence. It is the influence of Wales on English literature and art that has given whatever touches of tenderness and beauty that they have. The Celt will yet have his due.

It is not generally known that Wales is the most Celtic of the Celtic nations. It has retained its national language, music and tradition more completely than Ireland and has a national university, which the matter of a university was taken up by the Cymmrodorian Society, which corresponds to the Gaelic League of Ireland, and drew up a scheme upon which the university was to be conducted in 1893 and submitted it to all the Welsh representative bodies. It was then submitted in the form of a charter to the Privy Council of Great Britain and received the approval of that body and the royal assent the same year. In the summer of 1895 the university began its first academic year. The impetus came in the first place from the Welsh language movement, and the language leaders, the academic bodies, the politicians and the county councils worked harmoniously together. The British government yielded to the demands of the Welsh people as soon as these demands took form and expression and the system of teaching accorded was that which the Welsh people themselves desired and not what the British Government thought best. They already had three residential colleges with which the university was affiliated.

One of the most prolific Irish historians of the present day is the Very Rev. John Canon O'Hanlan, P.P., of Dublin. His latest work is "The Irish-American History of the United States from the Earliest Times to the Conclusion of the War with Spain." It is illustrated with pictures and maps. Price 25 shillings.

Another new Irish publication by a priest is "The Irish People: Their Height, Form and Strength." The author is the Rev. E. Hogan, S.J. The price in cloth is 2s. 6d.

In one of my communications I made mention of Ed. Corrigan, an Irish-Canadian horseman, who has won great distinction in this country, and his imported horse, "McGee." I find the following with regard to the speed of this horse dated "Memphis, Tenn., March 22," which no doubt will be pleasant reading for the admirers of the great Irish Canadian statesman, after whom the horse is named:

"The surprise was furnished by Ed. Corrigan's imp. McGee, which shouldered 120 pounds and covered a mile in 1.45, finishing out a mile and an eighth in 1.59, after having started at the half pole, which carried his course around the troublesome backstretch turn of the Montgomery hill. McGee was accompanied by his stable companion, Haviland, for the first half, but after that Haviland was left behind."

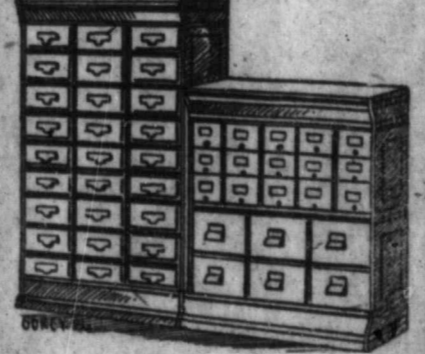
WILLIAM HALLEY.

PERSONAL

Rev. Father Downey will be pastor of a new church in Windsor, to be called the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

William R. Grace, twice mayor of New York, is dead. He was born at Queenstown, Ireland, in 1832, and reached New York as a cabin boy. He was prominent in all Catholic affairs in New York city.

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OBITUARY

One by one the older generation of Irishmen and Irishwomen are passing away. This week the painful task is imposed upon me of recording the demise of Mrs. Cregan, which sad event took place at 25 Arthur street, Ottawa, some few weeks ago. Mrs. Cregan, who was a sister to the late Mr. James Latchford, and aunt to Hon. F. R. Latchford, Minister of Public Works in the Ontario Government, left her native home in the County of Limerick, Ireland, nearly half a century ago, settling in Ottawa, where she has resided until the time of her death. This fine type of an Irishwoman must belong to one of those long-living families which are very numerous in Ireland. Her brother—Mr. James Latchford—who died within the last twelve-month at the Dominion capital, was born in the very year and in the very month in which that grand Pontiff of Blessed Memory—Leo XIII—was born, and at the time of his death had almost completed his ninety-fourth year, whilst Mrs. Cregan herself had passed her eighty-fifth year. Knowing this excellent woman well, I can bear testimony to her excellent qualities. She was a patriotic Irishwoman and her devotedness to her Church is best illustrated by the fact that an excellent son whom she raised is now ministering in one of the leading Catholic parishes of Chicago. May she rest in peace.

Another of those Irishwomen who reflected no dishonor on our race was Mrs. Doyle, wife of Mr. James Doyle of Cambridge street, Ottawa. And her death, which sad event occurred on the 28th of February last, imposes upon me again a very painful task. Mrs. Doyle was a daughter of Francis Dolan, a native of the County of Cavan, Ireland, who, with a very large family, when the subject of this brief memoir was only a little girl, settling in the Township of Osgoode, when that now flourishing section was almost in its primitive state. Many years have now passed since I first made the acquaintance of this excellent family and I have a clear recollection of their worth. Sincerely mourned, Mrs. Doyle leaves a much respected but sorrowing husband, as well as an excellent family, one of whom is the wife of Mr. John Power of the Ottawa Fire Department, to mourn her loss.

FRANTZ ROSAR DECEASED.

The death occurred March 24th at his late residence, 240 King street, of Franz Rosar, an old resident. Deceased, who was in his 65th year, was born in Achen, Rhine Province, Germany, and came to Toronto about 45 years ago. He married Rosaria, the daughter of John Solleder, undertaker, whose business he bought out upon Mr. Solleder's removal to Hamilton over 42 years ago. He occupied continuously up to the time of his death the property which he bought from his father-in-law, and consequently possessed the oldest established undertaking business in the city of Toronto. He was a charter member of the first branch of the C.M.B.A. established in the city of Toronto and was also a member of the German Benevolent Association. He leaves three sons, John and Edward, in the undertaking business, and William, with Rice Lewis & Son, two daughters and his widow mourn his loss.

The funeral took place Monday morning last at St. Paul's church, it having been as regards attendance one of the largest funerals which ever was held in St. Paul's parish. The large church was filled by people of all religious denominations who wished thus to pay respect to his past worth as a citizen. A solemn funeral high mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Hand, who was assisted by Rev. Father Rholer as deacon and Father Cantillon as sub-deacon. The remains were then conveyed to the family plot in St. Michael's Cemetery, where the burial took place. R.I.P.

Palm Sunday at St. Peter's

On Palm Sunday evening a step was taken at St. Peter's Church, Bathurst street, which may contribute in no little degree to the forming of that longed-for greater activity and social unity now stirring the Catholic circles of Canada. After discussing the matter with several of his parishioners the pastor of St. Peter's decided on having a Vesper service specially for the men of his parish, who attended in a manner which showed their appreciation of the idea. In his sermon, which was on the third article of the Apostles' Creed, and dealt with the goodness and condescension of our Lord in becoming man. The lesson of personal contact taught by the mystery of the Incarnation was specially insisted on. The Eternal Son of God emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, became man's brother and companion in order to uplift him. And if our men would catch something of the spirit of their great Exemplar, if in some measure "that mind was in them which was also in Christ Jesus," if they would take a deep personal interest in one another's welfare, great things would be accomplished. After the service the men who assisted thereafter adjourned to the adjoining school, where various projects for the closer social union of Catholics and especially for the safeguarding of their boys, were discussed. Messrs. Halloran, Kavanagh, Haffa and M. Mogan, a visitor from the East End, taking part in the discussion. Afterwards introductions and the making acquaintance all round were indulged in. A most pleasing feature of the evening was a duet, "Tarry With Me," beautifully rendered by Mr. and Mrs. Firth of Robert street, and the wish was expressed on all sides that the pleasure of hearing such accomplished singers would be again afforded in the near future.

"THE CASE OF MISS DUNN"

Argument in Suit Against Education Board

Before Chancellor Boyd on Monday the case of Miss Dunn, the teacher at Jarvis street Collegiate Institute, against the Board of Education, came on for hearing. In supporting the plaintiff's case, Mr. L. V. McBrady, K.C., asked for the committal of eight members of the Education Board for contempt of court in ignoring the injunction granted by Mr. Justice MacMahon prohibiting them from acting on the Management Committee's report and dismissing Miss Dunn. He also asked for a continuance of the injunction, arguing that the action of the board had been arbitrary. She had been a year in office before her incapacity had been suggested; no complaint had been made about her in the Government inspector's annual report, which stated that all the members of the teaching staff were legally qualified for their work. Damages, as suggested by his Lordship, for wrongful dismissal would not meet the case, as Miss Dunn's professional career would be ruined. She had, he held, proved her efficiency as a teacher, and so had satisfied the requirements of the position.

The Chancellor—if an injunction could be obtained by every teacher dismissed, this would lead to a fearful state of anarchy between the teachers and the Board of Education. The argument of Mr. F. E. Hodgins, K.C., for the Board tended to show that the Management Committee had all discretionary powers delegated to it from the Board of Education.

This Lordship reserved judgment on the motion to commit and on the question of continuance of the injunction. At counsel's request, he granted leave to the Education Board to appoint a teacher to replace Miss Dunn, it being understood that Miss Dunn continued under terms of pay pending a definite decision as to her case.

On Wednesday morning Chancellor Boyd gave judgment refusing the motion in behalf of Miss Dunn to have the injunction against the Board of Education continued, accepted the disclaimer of the Board that no contempt of court was intended, but allowing Miss Dunn her costs.

Official Announcement For Easter Week

at St. Michael's Cathedral.

It was announced on Sunday, March 30th, that the office of Tenebrae would be held in the Catholic churches in Toronto on the evenings of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week, at 7.30.

On Thursday Pontifical High Mass will be sung by His Grace Archbishop O'Connor, in the Cathedral, at 9 o'clock, at which the oils will be blessed.

On Friday the Mass of the Pre-Sanctified will be at 9 o'clock and the stations of the cross will be held at 3.

The Saturday Mass will be at 8 o'clock, preceded by the blessing of the fire, Easter water and paschal candle.

On Easter Sunday His Grace the Archbishop will sing Pontifical High Mass in the Cathedral.

Funeral of the Late Mrs. Hugh Ryan

The funeral of the late Mrs. Hugh Ryan was held yesterday (Wednesday) from the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes to Mount Hope Cemetery. The body had been brought from Egypt, where the deceased was sojourning at the time of her sudden and fatal illness. The Solemn Requiem Mass was offered by Rev. Father Cruise at 9 o'clock and was attended by the members of the family and hundreds of Catholics from all parts of the city. A long line of carriages followed the remains to the grave, though the funeral was of the most private character. R.I.P.

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