

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

If the English speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they would soon make of the "True Witness" one of the most prosperous and powerful Catholic papers in this country. I heartily bless those who encourage this excellent work.

† PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

SATURDAY..... FEBRUARY 26, 1898.

A NOTABLE ANNIVERSARY.

There was celebrated in Boston a few days ago an anniversary which was notable in more respects than one. It was the silver jubilee of the foundation of the Catholic Union of that city. That the event was one of more than ordinary importance was evident from the presence of Cardinal Gibbons, of Archbishop Martinelli, the Apostolic Delegate; of Archbishop Corrigan, of New York; and several other prelates, together with the honorary president of the union, the venerable Archbishop Williams, of Boston.

The Catholic Union of Boston has since its establishment been a potent factor in the promotion of Catholic interests in Boston and throughout the State of Massachusetts. Founded in 1873, in response to an appeal made by Pope Pius IX., who, having been despoiled of his possessions by the King of Sardinia, called upon Catholic laymen all over the world to take steps to secure for themselves the full enjoyment of their civil rights—it has done a large amount of practical work in furtherance of its avowed object. In 1873 the Catholic inmates of the penal and charitable institutions of Boston, as well as of the whole State of Massachusetts, were unprovided with the ministrations of their clergy as a matter of recognized right. The presence amongst them of a Catholic priest was simply tolerated where it was not actually prohibited; and in none of these places had he a legal right to go. The Catholic Union took up this question the very moment it was established; and before one year had passed there was a Catholic chaplain at Deer Island and Rainsford Island, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was being regularly offered up in the House of Correction at South Boston. Soon afterwards other similar institutions throughout the State followed suit; and thus a grievous injustice was removed. In other important respects necessary reforms of a like character have been accomplished through its instrumentality. The bigotry of which Boston was for so long an active centre was at last so far overcome that a prominent member of the Union, the late Mr. Hugh O'Brien, was elected Mayor of the city by a handsome majority. A passage in General Patrick Collins' speech at the jubilee banquet admirably sums up the aim and the accomplishments of the Union. "We claimed no advantage," he said, "but we insisted upon equality, and equality we have. We war with no sect, preach no crusade, claim no privilege, and we shall be militant only if, and when, what rights others enjoy are denied to the men, women and children of our creed."

Cardinal Gibbons, in the course of an eloquent address, said:

"What is the greatest need of the Catholic Church of the United States? Is it churches that are most needed?"

"Churches indeed are required where the people may worship their Maker and hear the word of God. But they are not the most essential requisite."

"Our forefathers in the faith worshipped in the catacombs of Rome, and they were certainly the best of Christians."

"Is it Christian schools that are most needed? They are indeed an indispensable element in the maintenance of Christian faith in the rising generation. But what would schools avail if we had not ingenious youth to frequent them?"

"Is it hospitals and asylums that are most needed? They are indeed potent factors in the alleviation of suffering humanity, and are the glory of our Christian civilization. But they do not constitute the greatest want of our times. All these things are but a means to an end."

"What the Church needs are men—men of strong and sturdy character; men who place conscience before ex-

pediency at all times, who place principle above popularity; men who are guided in their conduct by a solemn sense of duty rather than by self-interest."

The Church in Canada as well as in the United States has also need, and urgent need, of such men; and Montreal has need of such an organization as the Catholic Union of Boston, with its magnificent club house, where members of minor Catholic societies are made welcome, and its grand \$70,000 hall, where they may gather together on special occasions to discuss, amongst other subjects, means to promote Catholic interests, to defend Catholic rights, and to spread Catholic truth.

LATE ARCHBISHOP CLEARY.

It is our sad duty to announce to our readers that His Grace Archbishop Cleary of the Archdiocese of Kingston departed this life on Thursday last.

In another column will be found some interesting particulars of the career of the late distinguished prelate. He was a man of far more than ordinary ability, a ripe scholar and profound theologian. During the term of his residence in Canada he passed through many exciting times. Strong in his convictions he had no love for half measures. When he considered the occasion required it he spoke with no uncertain tones, and as he spoke so also he wrote. But to those who knew him in intimacy he was not merely the Archbishop battling with undaunted courage for the rights of his Church and her adherents; he was the polished gentleman, and the fast friend as well.

During the last days of his illness he is reported to have spoken of the many occasions in which he had felt himself called upon to defend in no measured terms what he considered to be the right, and to those about him he said, that whilst admitting his liability to err, he had nothing to regret, and that he had written and spoken as he firmly believed the occasion required.

Archbishop Cleary has left his mark on the history of Canada; his name will be revered as that of a great Churchman, and even those whose policy was opposed by him will acknowledge that he was actuated by the highest motives, and that his life was worthy in every respect of sincere admiration. By the death of His Grace the Church has lost a valiant and able defender and Canada a distinguished citizen.

A FEW LEFT.

Abraham Lincoln, who deservedly enjoyed the reputation of a quaint philosopher, classified one branch of mankind as people whom you can fool all the time. Beyond doubt, some people can be fooled, and will continue to be fooled, until the crack of doom. A large section of this gullible class is to be found amongst those whose daily intellectual bread is the pabulum furnished by our enterprising contemporary, the Daily Witness. A few days ago our city was visited by the Rev. Doctor McArthur, of the Baptist persuasion, from New York. No sooner had the reverend traveller deposited his bag on the counter of his hotel than he was pounced upon by a reporter of our contemporary. The result was that, to use the heading of the interview, "Bright Observations by Dr. McArthur" were secured for the enlightenment and delectation of the patrons of the Witness. Amongst other bright things the Doctor is reported to have uttered, is the following:—

"Tammany is the triumph of Archbishop Corrigan; it is the triumph of the Pope of Rome, who, himself a subject of another power, is supreme. Croke is an instrument; Archbishop Corrigan is the power behind the throne. The triumph of Tammany in New York is the triumph of Irish Romanism. Let there be no mistake about that. We are under the government of the Pope. A man who was a thug and the companion of thugs comes over from England, and, although holding no office, having no visible power, rules us. Is it not inexplicable? I have said in my pulpit that it was strange that while on the European continent there was a question of limiting the powers of monarchy, we, a republican people, had admitted, in the person of Mr. Croker, the power of unlimited monarchy."

As some of our friends would say: That bange Banagher and Banagher bange the d—l. Just imagine the holy horror of the pious old ladies, whose lamp is our shining contemporary, holding up their hands in horror at the idea of such a state of things existing in that bad place, New York. Irish Romanism controlled by Archbishop Corrigan. The wily Croker, a mere tool in the hands of a Roman ecclesiastic. The ecclesiastic simply a puppet, worked by an old man in the Vatican, thousands of miles away; that old man sitting up, night after night, forging plans to outwit the immaculate Plat and his associates, as well as the officers and the rank and file of the reform association; and his plottings and scheming being actually crowned with success!!! All this is too much for ordinary human nerves. It was worth Doctor McArthur's while to come to Montreal to make known this dreadful

conspiracy, had he no other information to impart; and how thankful we must all be towards his Reverence, for having given such valuable and authentic information. But one good turn deserves another. How would it do for one of our Reverends to take a trip over to New York, and just let the readers of some truly religious paper over there know, by what secret scheming His Holiness secured the election, by acclamation, of Mayor Préfontaine, giving a most graphic account of how the whole conspiracy was worked, and how the efforts of the good and pure were crushed by the arch schemers under ecclesiastical guidance. There is not the slightest doubt that such an emissary would find graphic writers to enshrine, in the columns of the press, his bright observations, and many would be only too anxious to swallow the story without the traditional grain of salt, for there, as here, the race of fools is not yet extinct—there are a few left.

MGR. EMARD'S PASTORAL.

His Lordship Mgr. Emard, Bishop of Valleyfield, has issued a Pastoral to the faithful of his diocese which it is our privilege to publish in the present issue. Anything coming from the pen of the distinguished prelate who presides with so much ability, zeal, and fruitful results, over the adjoining diocese, always commands respect and attention, but in the present instance, and at this particular season, when the faithful are engaged in the exercises of Lent, the admirable Pastoral of his Lordship on the Church, its origin, its mission, as well as the clear pronouncement upon the universality of the Mystical Spouse of Christ, and the Apostolic character of her Bishops and Clergy, is of more than ordinary interest.

THE "MAINE" DISASTER.

The decision to hold within closed doors the enquiry by the United States representatives, now in session in Havana, into the cause of the terrible disaster to the battleship Maine, was no doubt arrived at after due consideration, and prompted by sagacious motives. The reading public are, of course, deeply disappointed, for they are thus deprived of the pleasure of perusing high-colored sensational reports, more or less trustworthy, every day of the proceedings of the court, with long drawn out comments and speculations thereon. Perhaps one of the reasons which induced the United States authorities to keep the proceedings private until the official report is ready was to prevent the mischief which garbled and sensational newspaper narratives so easily produce.

Whatever may be the finding of the court as to the cause of the calamity, it is difficult to see why there should be any danger of war between the United States and Spain as a result of it. Experts on international law agree that, even if the Maine has been blown up by a torpedo or other infernal machine from without, the occurrence would not be a legitimate *casus belli* unless it were proved that the Spanish authorities in Cuba were responsible for it. If the United States goes to war with Spain, it will hardly be on account of the blowing up of the Maine; it is more likely to be because of its justifiable interference on behalf of the Cuban patriots, who have assuredly deserved success in their struggle for freedom, if they have not achieved it.

THE IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL.

Any doubt which may have been entertained as to the acceptableness of the Salisbury Cabinet's Irish Local Government Bill must have been dispelled by the cable information that it has found favor with Mr. John Dillon, Mr. John E. Redmond and Mr. Timothy Healy. Its provisions do not go far enough to satisfy the demand of the Irish people for equal political rights with Great Britain. That was only to be expected. But it is a great and genuine concession to the national aspirations of the Irish people, and one which will logically pave the way to further concessions, until Home Rule is finally won; and it is for this reason that it has been accepted by the Irish leaders.

The motives which actuate the Salisbury Government in bringing the measure before Parliament and the Irish Nationalist leaders in supporting it are of a very different character. Mr. Gerald Balfour and his colleagues believe that it will have the effect of stopping the agitation for Home Rule. The Irish Nationalists know that it will have the opposite result; that, by giving the people practical experience in self-government in county affairs, it will be exceedingly useful in preparing them for self-government in national affairs; and that it will effectually refute the oft-repeated contention of Ireland's enemies that her people are "not fit to govern themselves."

The bill emphasizes the complete change which has come over the spirit of British Conservatives in regard to Ireland, whose people their leader, only a few years ago, described as "a lot of Hottentots."

THE IRISH CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.

That Catholic Ireland will soon have a State-endowed University, to which she has a right and which she has claimed for three hundred years, the debate which took place in the British House of Commons last week leaves no room for reasonable doubt. Mr. A. J. Balfour, the leader of the government forces in the popular chamber, reasserted his conviction that the Catholics of Ireland had just grounds for complaint in the matter, and went so far as to promise that what Mr. Dillon described as "this intolerable grievance" would be removed at an early date. The Nationalists have received unexpected support from Mr. Lecky, M.P., the distinguished historian, whose "unionist" prejudices do not deter him from recognizing the justice of the demand formulated by the vast majority of his countrymen.

The concession of this right to the Catholics of Ireland, is, of course, being bitterly opposed by the Orangemen and other bigots who make up a portion of the small Protestant minority in that country. They base their opposition on the ground—and it is the only argument they have, if it can really be called an argument—that the endowment of a Catholic University by the State would mean the appropriation of "Protestant money" to the support of a Catholic institution. As Archbishop Walsh, of Dublin, recently pointed out, this is a hypocritical argument. "Is 'Protestant money,'" said the Archbishop, "to be guarded so jealously that not a penny is to be paid out of the public treasury to a purpose of which any Protestant in Great Britain or Ireland chooses to say that he disapproves, whilst our 'Catholic money' is to be expended, quite as a matter of course, in the maintenance of a system to which we, Catholic taxpayers, have, as a matter of religious duty, an ineradicable, conscientious objection?" Trinity University, as everybody knows, is as Protestant in tone and management to day as when founded and endowed with Catholic money by Queen Elizabeth. The State-aided Queen's Colleges are likewise Protestant in tone; and they are supported by "Catholic money," just as the Protestant Church establishment was supported by "Catholic money," until Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bright and Mr. Cobden put an end to the monstrous injustice. The bigots amongst the Protestant minority are quite content to have Protestant educational institutions supported by "Catholic money," but they raise frantic objections when it is proposed to support Catholic educational institutions, not on "Protestant money," but on the taxes paid by the Catholics themselves. How hypocritical, how unreasonable, how ridiculous, in fact, such an attitude is apparent to every member of the House of Commons except Colonel Sanderson and his Orange colleagues.

All that the Catholics of Ireland want is to be put upon a footing of equality with their Protestant fellow-citizens in regard to higher education. They ask for no favors, no privileges, no special advantages. The speeches made by Mr. Balfour and Mr. Lecky justify the prediction that a State-endowed Irish Catholic University in Dublin will soon be an accomplished fact.

ZOLA FOUND GUILTY.

It was a foregone conclusion that Zola would be found guilty of the serious charge made against him—that of having slandered the French Council of War. No one who has read the letter which he published, and which contained the slander, can have the least doubt as to his guilt. Were the court which condemned Dreyfus a civil instead of a military one, anyone who should comment upon the decision in the manner in which Zola commented upon the decision of the court composed of members of the Council of War, he would undoubtedly be sent to jail either in France or England, or in any other civilized country where the case occurred. Here are a few sample extracts from the letter:—

"I accuse General Billot of having suppressed the proofs of the innocence of Dreyfus, which he had in his possession. I accuse General Boisdeffre and General Gonne of having been accessories to this crime."

"I accuse General de Pellieux and Commander Rivary of having caused an investigation criminal in its nature."

"I accuse the three autograph experts of having made lying and fraudulent reports."

"I accuse the officers of the Ministry of War of having conducted the detestable campaign in the press, particularly in the *Éclair* and the *Écho de Paris*, to mislead public opinion, and to cover up their own guilt."

Not all the efforts of Zola and his lawyer to introduce extraneous matters into the case, and to try to mix it up with the Dreyfus case, could succeed in blinding the jury to the fact that these and the other similar statements contained in the letter were not grossly libellous and slanderous. It was, doubtless, his excessive vanity that caused Zola to take the stand he did. If any proof of this were needed, it is furnished in his ridiculous statement that "the honor of

France" was at stake in his trial. Fancy France's honor being personified by the filthy novelist Zola!

As a writer in the *Fortnightly Review* points out, the betrayal of military secrets by venal officers has been of frequent occurrence in France. In October, 1896, Lieut. Jean Bonnet was tried at Nancy for being in the pay of a foreign power and selling documents relating to the national defenses; he was convicted. In 1888, Adj. Chatelain was also convicted of selling military secrets to the foreigner, and in 1895 a similar charge was brought home to Capt. Guillot. None of these cases excited more than passing interest; but, as the writer truly says, had these men been Jews, it would have been otherwise.

CATHOLIC SAILORS' CLUB.

Readers of the TRUE WITNESS are reminded that with the opening of navigation occurs the opening of the Catholic Sailors' Club, which is doing so splendid a work, and they are asked to show their interest in it, at least by donations of periodicals, magazines or newspapers, suitable for the Reading Rooms. No better object could be found than this, which is so widespread and productive of good, under almost innumerable forms. All such donations to be addressed Catholic Sailors' Club, No. 1 St. Peter street, Montreal.

OUR PRELATES AND OUR PRESS.

What our prelates and priests can do to promote the success of Catholic newspapers is illustrated by an incident which occurred in Germany a few years ago. A wealthy member of the flock called upon the bishop of a well known diocese and offered him a large sum of money to defray the expenses of rebuilding an ancient church in the birthplace of the former. He suggested that the money should be invested, and the interest upon it allowed to accumulate until it had become large enough to justify the undertaking of the work of reconstructing the church. On questioning his visitor the bishop elicited the information that in his native town, the church of which he desired to pull down and restore, there was neither a Catholic hospital, a Catholic workmen's club, nor a Catholic newspaper. "If you agree to what I am about to propose," said the bishop, "I promise you that I shall use your money that in ten years a Catholic hospital will be built, a Catholic workmen's club will be founded, a daily Catholic newspaper will be in circulation, and the church will be rebuilt." Asked what his proposition was, the bishop replied that he would at once start a Catholic weekly newspaper with the money—a newspaper which would advocate in every issue of it the promotion of these good works. The Catholic layman agreed to the proposal. The weekly newspaper was started. In a year it began to be issued twice a week; in three years it was published three times a week; and in four years it became a daily, with a good number of paying subscribers! Then the hospital was built and the club founded, and the church pulled down and work begun upon its reconstruction. The church is now nearing completion, and it will be ready for consecration on the tenth anniversary of the first publication of the newspaper. If other bishops and priests generally would take the same practical interest in the welfare of the Catholic press, similar instances of gratifying success would be recorded.

DIRECTED ENERGY.

The Monitor, of Ottawa, has a suggestive article from the pen of its able editor, Mr. Thomas Swift, on "Directed Energy as an Element of Success." Mr. Swift is already known to the readers of the TRUE WITNESS, to whose columns he has several times contributed. His style is clear and concise, and he never indulges in the florid highfalutin which does duty for literary ability with many an ambitious penman. In their attitude towards work, Mr. Swift divides people into three classes: those who do as little work as they possibly can do, those who do manfully whatever their hand findeth to do, and those who work with a clearly defined purpose. It is the last named class who, as he rightly contends, generally succeed. It must not, he adds, be presumed that all those who work without having a clearly defined goal in view never achieve success. There would be much more of the sadness of disappointment in the world if such were the case; and the rewards of industry would be greatly curtailed. On the other hand, it is remarkable to see how many industrious and work-loving people toil all their lives and have little or nothing of material gain to show for it, because their energy had no definite direction or purpose. "An inflexible purpose," he says in conclusion, "good courage, and perseverance, will carry a man a long way. History teems with illustrious examples of men who have thus triumphed over apparently insurmountable difficulties, and wherever natural talents and noble aims have been found in conjunction

with these qualifications the world has looked upon a hero. The lives of such men as Pitt, O'Connell and Washington are full of inspiration, and reveal the power of accomplishing that which may lie in the brain, heart and hand of one man."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

ENGLAND has 1,000,000 persons who are either paupers in workhouses, criminals in prisons, homeless in great cities or wanderers.

QUEBEC has been again the scene of the dreaded avalanche, and history has repeated itself in the sacrifice of four more lives and the serious injury of the mothers of the victims. The sad story has awakened deep sympathy throughout the Dominion, together with a sense of insecurity of those whose dwellings are exposed to the possibility of similar occurrences.

It is currently reported that Detective James O'Keefe is to be appointed Deputy Warden at St. Vincent de Paul. Since his connection with the Montreal police force he has shown himself to be an exceptionally efficient officer, and deservedly enjoys the confidence of this community. He will bring "order out of chaos" at St. Vincent de Paul, if it can be done by any man. We sincerely hope the rumor is true, as the appointment would be a popular one.

THE Daily Witness says: "A predecessor of Archbishop Bruchesi, by his fulminations against the reading of a certain daily paper, made bad Catholics of a great many good men." This is really tantamount to saying that a good man who does not read the Daily Witness becomes a bad Catholic because he does not read it, which is absurd on the face of it. All the same, the Daily Witness has improved a good deal since it was ecclesiastically condemned.

A HALF column extract from a London newspaper, entitled "A County Court Comedy," is going the rounds of several of our Irish exchanges. It is a verbatim report of some quaint statements made by a poor Irishwoman in a Whitechapel Court; where she appeared in answer to a summons regarding a wringing machine which she had bought on the instalment plan. We confess that we do not see why a portion of the Irish Nationalist press should take a delight in ridiculing its own people. Where does the fun come in?

The Monitor, the Universe, and the Catholic Times, all English Catholic journals, have given illustrated supplements, with their last issue, giving interesting sketches of the great Catholic Cathedral now in course of erection at Westminster, together with a "Message" from Cardinal Vaughan, appealing to the Catholics of England to give him their best assistance in this truly great work, which he hopes to complete in time to open on the anniversary of the Golden Jubilee of the Restoration of the Church in England to her place in the Hierarchy of the Kingdom of God. The supplement contains a view of the magnificent interior of the new Cathedral and several sketches showing the present state of the work. It will be an imposing pile when finished, and a grand monument to Catholic zeal and generosity. The idea of this great undertaking was conceived by Cardinal Wiseman, commenced by Cardinal Manning, and it is to be hoped, will be carried to completion by Cardinal Vaughan. These who cannot give material aid will assist with their prayers and good wishes.

Correspondence in the Times has drawn attention to the respective merits of English and American railways. From this it would appear that, while England has a greater number of fast trains, she runs none that can beat the holiday season train that ran last summer from Philadelphia to Atlantic City, 562 miles, including a mile of steamboat ferry, doing the whole trip in an hour, which included 8 minutes for the ferry. On one occasion this train made 552 miles in 46 minutes, or at the rate of 71.2 miles an hour. The American charge, too, is one-half of the English fare. A series of contrasts are made from which it appears that America can teach England many things in the matter of railway speed and railway management. The correspondence which elicited these facts has excited much attention.

The Queen's uniform is evidently not quite so attractive in these closing days of the century as it was in the early years, at least judging from the remarks of Lord Lansdowne, Secretary for War, in a recent debate in the House of Lords, on the question of managing the militia. His Lordship declared that the military system of the country rested upon the principle that the Crown had the right to require every citizen to bear his part in the defence of the Kingdom. That liability had long been dormant, but it was nevertheless real. He foresaw a time when the country would be driven to the adoption of compulsory military service in the same shape.

A touch of a kindly hand will oftentimes render more help and comfort than the most eloquent words. Our hands were made for helpfulness, and they are never more worthily used than when they are stretched forth to lift the fallen, to aid the weak, or to comfort the sorrowful heart. "Oh! for a touch of the Master's hand!" Oh, for a baptism of the Master's spirit! Whose hands were ready for all' helpfulness, even to being nailed for our redemption to the cross of shame.