

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Continued from first page.

THE Italian government is very generous. It has presented a library in Rome with 1,500 rare volumes and musical manuscripts "found in convents." The famous "Brennan of the Moor" used to act in the same way. He would knock a traveller down and rob him; then he would make presents with part of the stolen goods. He had quite a "good name" amongst the inhabitants at the foot of Slievenamon. Poor fellow, he was so generous! So is the Italian government very kind. It sacks and robs the convents and then gives part of the booty to some infidel institution.

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IT APPEARS, by the Local Anzeiger of Berlin, that a despatch from St. Petersburg, announces the issuing of an imperial decree abolishing the use of the knout for offences committed by the peasantry. Heretofore the Russian peasants were entirely at the mercy of the local judges. Statistics were submitted to the Czar, showing that during the last ten years three thousand persons died as the result of being whipped with knouts, and that the greater number of them were only guilty of petty thefts. It is a sign of hopefulness that the new Czar seems inclined to ameliorate the condition of the people as far as he can. Great and radical changes are necessary in the administration of the Russian laws. And if the changes do not come from those in power they must come from the oppressed—sooner or later.

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AS AN EVIDENCE of how highly respected, by the great men of the world, is the present reigning Pontiff, we find, on the second of this month, the Emperor of Germany telegraphing a lengthy message of congratulation upon the occasion of Leo XIII's eighty-fifth birthday. His majesty expressed the hope that the Pope "would long be spared for the benefit of the welfare of the Catholic Church, and of all Christendom." Even the prisoner of the Vatican, deprived of his rightful possessions and subject to unjust restrictions from the tyrannical sectaries, is considered, by the great Protestant monarch, to be necessary for the welfare of all Christendom. A very pointed reply to the petty bigots who strive to ridicule the authority and influence of Christ's Vicar.

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LEO XIII. has just completed his seventeenth year upon the Papal throne. It is a comparatively long reign. In the long list of two hundred and fifty-nine Popes only fourteen occupied the Papal See for longer periods than the present Pontiff. It might interest our readers to know who they were:

St. Peter was Pope of Rome for 25 years; in the third century, St. Zephyrinus was Pope for 18 years; in the fourth century, St. Sylvester I. was Pope for 23 years and St. Damasus for 18 years; in the fifth century, St. Leo I. was Pope for 21 years; Adrian I. was Pope in the eighth century for 24 years; in the eleventh century, John XX. was Pope for 19 years and in the fourteenth century, John XXII. was Pope for 18 years. Urban VIII. was Pope in the seventeenth century, Clement XI. reigned for 21 years, Benedict XIV. for 18 years and Pius VI. for 25 years. In the present century, Pius VII. was Pope for 23 years (1800-1823) and Pius IX. for 32 years (1846-78).

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AT a recent convention of the A.P.A., held in Chicago, Mr. Sims, one of its incorporators, denounced the order in no measured terms. Not long ago Mr. Sims wanted to rid America of all Catholics: here are his charges against the A.P.A.:

"1. Its secret partisan political methods are a conspiracy against the rights of

American citizenship and a menace to honest popular government.

"2. Its constitution, by which despotic power is vested in its officers, is a violation of the constitution of the several states and of the United States, and a menace to the personal liberty of its members.

"3. Its usurpation of powers such as are alone vested in the constitutional courts of the republic, and its refusal to allow its members to appeal from actions to the civil courts, make it organized insurrection.

"4. Its so called advisory boards, in which are vested all the political action and liberty of its members, is a conspiracy to control their franchise of citizenship in violation of the constitutional and legislative provisions and laws for the protection of the independence of the citizen voter.

"5. Its claims to be a protective association of the liberal institutions which are founded upon the constitution under existing conditions is a misnomer, under cover of which it is organized as a secret political machine run in the interests of hoodling politicians.

"6. As now constituted and controlled it is the enemy of free speech, a free press, liberty of conscience, religious liberty and political independence."

LYRICS AND POEMS.

In another column will be found the notice of the much-asked-for publication of Dr. J. K. Foran's "Lyrics and Poems." The volume will be ready in a few days. It is beautifully bound in cloth and contains a portrait of the author. The poems are divided into sections. "Patriotic," "Historical and Descriptive," "Memorial and Pathetic," "Religious," "Jesuit," "Domestic," "Humorous and Juvenile," and "Early College" poems, constitute the different heads. Orders may be sent to Messrs. D. & J. Sadler & Co., 1659 Notre Dame Street. This is one of the largest collections of poems ever published in Canada and certainly marks an epoch in the literature of our country.

ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN SOCIETY.

AN EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY.

The following resolution of sympathy was unanimously adopted by the above society at its regular monthly meeting held on Sunday, March 3rd.

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God to take to himself the father of our worthy and esteemed fellow member, Mr. Michael Brennan, whilst bowing to the will of Divine Providence, be it, therefore,

Resolved,—That we, the members of St. Ann's Young Men Society, in session, do tender Mr. Brennan and family our individual and united sympathy, in this their trying and sorrowful affliction, and trust that our Divine Master will enable them to bear their cross with fortitude.

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to Mr. Brennan and family, entered on the minutes of this Society, and forwarded to THE TRUE WITNESS for publication.

JOHN J. WHITTY, Sec'y.

MOVING UPWARD.

St. Catherine street is gradually becoming the great retail thoroughfare of Montreal. Many well known establishments have recently taken up quarters in that section of the city. We learn with pleasure that Mr. Ogilvy, the popular dry goods merchant of St. Antoine street, has virtually decided to commence building on his site, at the corner of St. Catherine and Mountain streets, as soon as the frost is out of the ground. We wish Mr. Ogilvy every imaginable success in his undertaking and trust that he may find his new stand as prosperous as his present one.

PERSONAL.

We learn with pleasure that Mr. J. B. Lorge, our popular fellow-citizen and one of our leading retail merchants, (of J. B. Lorge & Co., 23 St. Lawrence St.) has a magnificent supply of spring goods just imported from London and New York. On St. Patrick's Day silk hats are the style and we feel sure that our friends, who always make a grand turnout on that occasion, could not do better than to just try some of Mr. Lorge's new stock. They are certainly beauties.

GRAND DRAWING OF PRIZES.

THE "CALENDAR'S" OFFERING.

A drawing of prizes is to be held in St. Mary's hall, cor. Craig and Panet streets, during the Octave of the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. The following is the list of valuable prizes which have been donated in order to help to liquidate the debt on the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, of Montreal:—An elegant Bell organ, valued at \$250; a handsome silver water pitcher and tray, valued at \$50; gentleman's gold watch, worth \$40; lady's gold watch, valued at \$20; a ten-dollar gold piece; a five-dollar gold piece. Among the other prizes are a silver cake basket, piece of cloth for gentleman's suit, silk hat, silverware and pickle stand, a cord of best maple wood, cruet stand, morocco cigar case, and numerous other articles. The articles are all new and of the best quality. The articles will be forwarded by express to the winners on the day after the drawing takes place. A gold watch will be presented to the person paying for the greatest number of tickets. As the object of the drawing is such a laudable one it is certain that all the members of the parish will assist in clearing off the debt of the church by purchasing tickets.

THE BELLS OF SHANDON.

High in the steeple of the church of St. Anne Shandon, Cork, hangs the bells that Father Prout has made ring so musically for all the world.

The name Shandon is from Seandon, meaning the old fort, or castle, near which stood a church called St. Mary Shandon. This last was destroyed during the siege of Cork by Marlboro, and the Church of St. Anne built on its site.

There are eight of the Shandon bells, says the writer in the Boston Commonwealth, and upon each one is an inscription:

First—God preserve the church and king, 1754 (the date of the casting of the bells at Gloucester by Abel Rudhall.)

Second—When you us ring we will sweetly sing. A. R., 1750.

Third—Health and prosperity to all our benefactors. A. R., 1750.

Fourth—Peace and good neighborhood. A. R., 1750.

Fifth—Prosperity to the city and trade thereof. Recast 1869, F. D. M. St. George, rector. (Rev. Francis De Montmorency St. George, a late rector of the parish, who died in 1882.)

Sixth—We are all cast in Gloucester, in England. Abel Rudhall, 1750.

Seventh—Since generosity has opened our mouths, our tongues shall ring aloud its praise. A. B.

Eighth—I to the church the living call, and to the grave do summon all. A. R., 1750.

Close to the ivy-covered wall of the church, in the old churoyard, under the shadow of the tower and the bells, lies the body of Rev. Francis Sylvester Mahoney, whom we know so well as Father Prout.

Father Mahoney was born at Cork, and all the early years of his life were spent at his home on Camden quay, where he listened to the melody of the bells as their music flowed with the River Lee. His parents decided that he should become a priest and his education was carried on with that end in view, till later he studied in France—at Amiens and in Paris—and was finally ordained a priest at Rome.

It was while he was in Rome that he wrote his "Shandon Bells," and there is something infinitely touching in the deep homesickness that lies in the little poem:

With deep affection and recollection,
I often think of those Shandon bells,
Whose sounds so wild would, in days of childhood,
Fling around my cradle their magic spells.

On this I ponder, where'er I wander,
And thus grow fonder, sweet Cork, of thee;
With thy bells of Shandon, that sound so grand on
The pleasant waters of the River Lee.

Father Mahoney found that his tastes inclined to literature rather than in spiritually directing people, so he went to London and entered upon a literary life, doing a good deal of work on Fraser's Magazine. It was then that he took the name of Father Prout, this belonging to a learned and very eccentric priest who was a friend of Father Mahoney. He first wrote a series of Prout papers, and later took it as his nom de plume.

It is characteristic of the Irish people that however far they may wander from

their Emerald Isle they still retain a warm affection for it, and so it was with Father Prout. Nearly all his life was spent abroad, but still his heart kept a warm corner for Ireland, and nearly everything he wrote showed this. He was a remarkable linguist, and translated into French, Greek, Latin and Italian many of Moore's poems, and it is said that Garibaldi's soldiers sang "The Groves of Blarney" in soft and limpid Italian upon the shores of their own lakes.

A restless, eager spirit sent Father Prout travelling in Egypt, Greece, Hungary and Asia Minor, from which points he wrote brilliantly, adding not a little to the literature of that period.

There is soon to be a more fitting memorial above the grave of this gifted son of Erin, for at present it is difficult to read even the name in the stone, it is so defaced by time and the elements.—Colorado Catholic.

The Rev. Father Quinlivan spoke on Sunday of the debt of \$30,000 which would be owing for the decoration of the church, and which would require to be paid by September. He said that if all those who attended service in the church on Sunday were to give only five cents each and continue to do this through the summer the sum collected would go a long way towards the liquidation of the debt. More than 4,000 persons attend Mass every Sunday.

SOON the season of navigation will commence and before many months pilgrimages will be renewed. The following table of events at St. Anne de Beaupre, during 1894, may serve to give an idea of the vast amount of people who congregate at the shrine:

"It was visited by 170,121 pilgrims divided up as follows by months: January, 749; February, 535; March, 938; April, 520; May, 2273; June, 19,605; July, 42,521; August, 26,505; September, 15,540; October, 5020; November, 1440; December, 1856. There were in all 146 pilgrimages, 122,300 communions, 5292 masses. Ninety crutches and sticks were left at the shrine by the pilgrims."

The March number of The Canadian Magazine is well illustrated and very varied in the subject matter of the excellent contributions given. Arthur Harvey's "The Women's Rights Question in Rome—195 B. C." illustrates the truth of the writer of Ecclesiastes that "there is nothing new under the sun." It is most interesting reading. "The Politics of Japan," by C. T. Long, formerly resident in Japan, gives a valuable glimpse of the practical working of political parties in that most interesting country. J. F. Morris Fawcett, of Newfoundland, deals trenchantly with the sins of journalism in that colony. Rev. W. S. Blackstock writes from Egypt an entertaining description of an Arab dinner, at which he was a guest. John O. Werner writes from Japan a thrilling, if somewhat ludicrous, experience of being long buried under an avalanche in British Columbia. True to life, and very interesting, is Margaret Ross's description of Sacramento week amongst the Highlanders around Lake Megantic. J. L. Hubard, of Virginia, a former slave owner, takes up the cudgels rigorously to defend the old order in the South, and Philip Lawdes-hayne gives a number of new anecdotes relating to the Old Country. The illustrated articles are, "A Yankee in Halifax," by Allan Eric; "The Royal Military College of Canada," by several writers; "The Intercolonial Railway," by P. F. Cronin, and "Laying a Submarine Cable," by F. A. Hamilton. Fiction includes "An Original Retribution," by Charles Nelson Johnson; "Like a Mountain Path" by Maud L. Radford, and "Jean Stuart's Encounter with Dougal McTavish," by Neil Burton. The Canadian Magazine is published by the Ontario Publishing Co., Ltd., Toronto, \$2.50 per annum. Single numbers 25 cents.

Bess: Don't you call this ring Fred gave me a beauty? Ethel: Yes; but you ought to see the one he wanted to give me.

Miss Younglove: Here is a telegram I want sent at once, please. Clerk: Yes, miss. Proceeds to count the words. Miss Y.: Stop, sir! How dare you read it! That message is confidential.