

In and Around Toronto

I.C.B.U. MINSTRELS.

On the evening of Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the 19th, 20th and 21st inst., the members of No. 1 branch of the I.C.B.U., of which Mr. R. Scollard is president, gave an entertainment worthy in every way to stand in the first rank with all of a similar character. The popularity of the event was vouched for by the crowded houses that met the presentations of the respective evenings. On the first night the hall was apparently crowded to its utmost capacity, but on the second evening it was still more crowded and the third night beat all previous records. The entertainment consisted of a first class minstrel program, choruses, ballads, end songs, a plantation band, an original negro sketch entitled "Plantation Frolics" and an interlude of a mixed character. When the curtain rose at 8.15 fifty colored gentlemen in regulation evening costume in which a great embellish by red or pink carnations or chrysanthemums, played a conspicuous part, faced the audience. The artists who handled the "bones" of the company were Messrs. J. McNamara, J. Burns, J. Parker and J. E. Ferris, while Messrs. G. Mehan, C. O'Donnell, B. T. Mitchell and L. Hourigan manipulated the tambourines. A musical medley sung by the entire company and introducing several pretty and popular ballads and negro melodies, was given in fine time and with considerable musical intonation. Ballads and end songs interspersed with original and new jokes and conundrums followed. The soloists were repeatedly encored, but where all did well it is impossible to discriminate. Mr. R. Scollard in clearness of tone, left nothing to be desired in the character of interlocutor, and the droll and varied imitations of the end men gave the audience much a hearty laugh. Master Frank Clegg in his character songs was repeatedly recalled, and his excellent playing on the xylophone displayed the highest talent in one so young. The selection, "Oit in the Stilly Night" and others by the octette of the I.C.B.U., were given in good voice and showed no small amount of preparation. The dancing of Messrs. Leo Hourigan, Brennan, McNamara and Geo. Mehan, was a feature of the evening, and the work of the latter in his "baton specialty" was on a par with that of first-class professionals. The sketch "Plantation Frolics" was admirably conceived and carried out. The members of the company who personated the ladies postured and danced quite gracefully and the costumes were quite in order. The gathering of the whole company in the shape of the Original Plantation Band, under the leadership of J. Philip Sousa Callaghan, brought the programme to a close. Every member of the company was a member of No. 1 Branch of the I.C.B.U. E. A. Ferris was stage director and J. F. Strathan musical director. The performances were decidedly a grand success, and the Athletic Association of the I.C.B.U. for which the affair was inaugurated, will no doubt benefit largely by the proceeds.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY.

The Feast of the Holy Family was observed throughout the diocese on Sunday last. At the cathedral the altars were brilliantly illuminated. Rev. Father Murray preached the sermon of the day.

NEW CHOIR FORMED.

A new choir composed of the little girls of the parish has just been established at the Church of the Holy Family. They sing at the early Mass and the singing is very sweet and devotional. Miss Pauline Carton is charge of the organ.

TROTTER-ST. DENIS.

On January 18th a very pretty wedding took place at the Sacred Heart Church, Rev. Father Lammarche officiating. The contracting parties were Miss Maude St. Denis and Mr. Victor Trotter, both of Toronto. The bride wore a handsome gown of brown broadcloth with hat of pale blue trimmed with pink. She carried a shower bouquet of white carnations. Miss Louise Opherkuch assisted the bride. She wore green voile over taffeta and a white picture hat, her flowers were pink carnations. The bridegroom was assisted by Mr. Leo St. Denis of the G.N.W. Telegraph Co., twin brother of the bride. Mr. and Mrs. Trotter left for a tour through the States and on their return will reside at Toronto Junction.

PERSONAL.

Major Archie Macdonell, D.S.O., whose family resided in St. Helen's Parish, left last week for two years' service in England. He had been only a few months in Toronto after a sojourn of three years in Africa, and his going was a disappointment to his many friends who had been looking for a longer stay in their midst.

CATHOLIC TEMPERANCE AND DEBATING UNION.

The last meeting of the Catholic Temperance Union proved a most interesting and successful one. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. F. S. Spence and Mr. J. Ferguson, and musical numbers by Miss De Grouchi and Mr. Robinson. Both the speeches and the music were much appreciated by the large number present. Owing to a cold the president, Mr. F. Walsh, was absent and the chair was taken by Mr. Power. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday evening, the 1st prox. in the hall of St. Peter's parish.

ST. JOHN'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

St. John's Industrial School at Flanby will soon be in possession of an entirely new wing. It is expected that it will be completed in about a week, when it will be formally opened by His Grace the Archbishop. Already one dormitory is occupied, forty-four beds having the same number of occupants, covering the surface. The new addition consists of three large and well-lighted class-rooms, a well-equipped lavatory, dining-room, scullery, and a large chapel together with apartments for the chaplain. Two of the class-rooms are divided by folding doors which may be thrown aside, and the rooms transformed into a hall for entertainments or extra-sized gatherings.

A FEARFUL BOGSLIDE

The following particulars of the recent bogslide in the neighborhood of Castlere, Ireland, are furnished by an eye-witness: The first premonitory commotion was noticed by Patrick Freehill and his family, whose holding is on the south-eastern confines of the bog. At 9 o'clock Freehill and his wife were about to leave their home to attend the Castlere market. Before setting out they told two of the children to gather in some turnips in the field, in front of the house. On going out to do so it was discovered that the turnip plot was covered with a black liquid mass which was flowing in from the adjacent bog. An alarm was instantly raised and a messenger fleet of foot started off to warn the people living in the neighborhood. Soon the cry of "The bog, the bog"—a signal full of significance and horror for the people of the district, who are not unacquainted with bog slides—was heard far and wide, and men, women and children possessed by terrifying anticipations, rushed from their cabins, and made for high ground north and south of the Cloonard river, which is a tributary of the far-famed Suck. Between the bog and the Castlere to Frenchpark road, in which direction it was drifting, are the homes of the Widow Serge, the Widow Callaghan, Pat Dale and Thomas Dale, and their families. Abandoning everything, the occupants fled from them with all possible speed in fear of their lives. Meanwhile the neighbors less dangerously circumstanced, came to the rescue, and succeeded in removing some small portion of the hay and oats which had been stacked by one or two of these poor people. There was little time, however, to rescue anything. The bog, which had been gathering itself for a dash, plunged forward with extraordinary rapidity and soon inundated the valley of the river, completely choking up the stream, and blotting out its banks and outlines. The public road, standing seven or eight feet higher than the reclaimed cutaway bog forming the holdings, checked the avalanche, and held it back until the afternoon of the Sunday following, though the mass of liquid peat was still increasing in volume. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, however, another convulsive bubbling and boiling was observed. At one o'clock on Monday morning, like fermenting yeast, the huge mass broke its bounds, and swept with destroying force and energy over the road, coursing off for another mile and a half eastward. Here again several holdings and dwellings lay directly in its path. The people had, of course, long since abandoned them, carrying with them whatever little valuables they were capable of moving. The doors and windows had been secured, but the tremendous rush of bog stuff swept away all obstacles. It broke down the battlement walls of the river bridge over the road; it smashed in doors, knocked down out-houses and cow sheds, levelled walls and ditches, and enveloped the country over which it travelled in one huge mass of liquid mud. The County Roscommon Surveyor, Mr. Mulvanny, was quickly on the scene, and set large gangs of men at work to draw off the water which was impelling the on-rush of the peat, but the operation was tedious and full of risk. A gullet was dug in the road, and when the bed of the river had cleared somewhat, drains were opened at points of vantage to enable the liquid matter to flow off. The water answered to this treatment, and numerous torrents poured down into the bed of the river, and coursed on to join the Suck. By these operations considerable progress was made in checking the further on-rush of the bog, and it is thought now that there will be no further movement of the bog. For a distance of from three to four miles long, and near a quarter of a mile wide, the whole country is submerged and completely buried under five, six, and seven feet of bog. Tons of potatoes, turnips, cabbages, mangolds, oats, hay and thousands of acres of oat soil and tillage are completely blotted out. The whole area I have mentioned is now again what it formerly was, before the sweat and toil of the poor people reclaimed it—black, swampy, spongy bog, that nothing could again make fertile or restore.

DEATH OF MR. PATRICK JAMES MCCORMACK.

On Wednesday, the 18th inst., at the General Hospital, the death occurred of Mr. Patrick James McCormack, one of the most trusted and esteemed sheriff officers of Toronto Jail. The funeral took place to St. Michael's Cemetery on Friday, the 20th inst., Rev. Father Rhoeder, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, officiating. The chief mourners were Sheriff Mowat, Governor Vanzandt, N. Murphy, K.C., and C. N. Pirie, and guards of the jail performed the office of pall-bearers. Mr. McCormack was widely known for his charitable acts, the memory of which will live after him. He was also a well-known member of the Church of the Sacred Heart. His relatives reside in the neighborhood of Drummond, near Belfast, Ireland. May he rest in peace.

British Navy and Papal Flag

The Press Association states the following correspondence has taken place between the Imperial Protestant Federation and the Prime Minister and the First Lord of the Admiralty with regard to a report that during Cardinal Vanuttelli's recent visit, the Papal Flag was saluted by certain ships of the British Navy—

Imperial Protestant Federation, September 15, 1904. "The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., P.C., 10 Downing street, Whitehall, S.W. "Dear Sir,—My attention has been drawn to a statement in the "Giornale d'Italia" to the effect that Cardinal Vanuttelli while in England was not only welcomed by His Majesty's Navy as a Prince of the Royal Blood, but that when on board one of His Majesty's vessels the Papal Flag was hoisted. Will you kindly tell me for the information of the Council of this Federation whether the statement in the paper referred to is accurate or inaccurate? "Signed JAS. WALSH, "Organizing Secretary."

A copy of the above letter was also sent to the First Lord of the Admiralty.

The reply of the Prime Minister was as follows: "North Berwick, Sept. 22, 1904. "Dear Sir,—Mr. Balfour desires me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September 15th, and in reply to say that the remon to which you refer appears to be one of the many absurd stories to which the visit of Cardinal Vanuttelli to England has given occasion.—I remain yours faithfully,

"(Signed) WILFRID M. SPOUT. "Writing to Mr. Balfour on October 19th, Mr. Walsh stated that careful inquiries had been made on behalf of the Council of the Imperial Protestant Federation, and it had been found that the statements referred to in his first letter had been widely circulated in Europe and in America. The telegram sent from Rome to practically every important daily newspaper published in the world was to the effect that in returning from Ireland Cardinal Vanuttelli was received by the Pope. He said he was accorded an enthusiastic reception, and that many honors were paid to him. For the first time since the fall of the temporal power of the Popes the Papal flag hoisted on the steamer carrying the Cardinal was saluted by British warships, while Lord Dudley, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, treated him as a prince of the blood. As the foregoing statement had not in any way been challenged, and as prominence had been given to it by the Roman Catholic press, it was safe to assume that it was regarded as accurate. Under these circumstances Mr. Walsh asked why the Papal Flag was saluted by British warships, and who was responsible for giving such an order.

The Prime Minister's reply to the above being marked "Private," Mr. Walsh addressed a further letter to Mr. Balfour, expressing his pleasure to hear that "there is no foundation for the allegation contained in the telegram," and hoping that in the anxiety which he would share with the Federation to correct any erroneous press telegrams which might have received widespread circulation, he would allow the word "Private" to be removed from his letter so that it might be communicated to the press.

On November 19th Mr. Balfour replied to above letter, but as he marked his further letter "Private," it cannot be published. The Prime Minister, however, gave permission for his previous letter to be published, provided that the last portion of it was omitted. The portion of the letter which he allows to be published is as follows: 10 Downing street, Whitehall, S.W. November 3rd, 1904. "Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter I have to say that I have already had the honor of informing you that there is no foundation for the allegation contained in the telegram to which you called my attention. (Rest of the letter omitted by request of the Prime Minister)—I remain, yours faithfully,

"(Signed) ARTHUR J. BALFOUR, James W. Walsh, Esq.

Auxiliary Bishop for Montreal

According to a press cablegram from Rome, Pope Pius X., acknowledging the growing importance of the Archdiocese of Montreal, has granted the request of Archbishop Bruchesi to have an Auxiliary Bishop. He has nominated Mgr. Zoticus Racicot, now Vicar-General of Montreal, to the office.

What a real gain is it to find out how little we love God, and how shabbily we serve him! This is one great good of reading the Lives of Saints. Because a saint is not always imitable, it does not follow that his life is not practical. Nay, for the most part of it is the admirable lives of the saints which teach us most humility, and kindle in us greatest love.

The Cure of Ars

Rome, Jan. 9.—This morning, the ceremony took place in the Vatican Basilica of the proclamation of G. B. Vienney, once Cure of Ars, France, as one of the blessed. Father Vienney was the founder of the devotion of Saint Philomena, and is most popular throughout France. The ceremony was most imposing, as the Cardinals of the Congregation of Rites were present, together with Cardinals Couille, Archbishop of Lyons; Labour, Archbishop of Rennes; and Perraud, Bishop of Autun, besides about one thousand pilgrims from the above-mentioned dioceses, and a large concourse of people of all nationalities. The Basilica was specially prepared for the occasion with twinkling lights and much red brocade, besides four banners with representations of the Blessed Vienney performing his miracles. This afternoon Pius X., in great pomp, descended into St. Peter's to venerate the newly proclaimed Blessed Vienney. The Papal procession was long and imposing, the Pontiff being surrounded by many of the Cardinals of the Curia, together with three members of the French Sacred College who had come to Rome specially for the occasion, many high Prelates and Papal dignitaries.

An interesting feature of this afternoon's ceremony was the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Genoa and their son, the Prince of Udine, to witness the passage of the Basilica with ordinary tickets, but were recognized and offered chairs by the Vatican officials. As his Holiness passed, the Princes and Princesses knelt, and at the end of the function they declined to leave by the special exit. This incident has created much comment in Vatican circles, as it is the first time that members of the House of Savoy have been present at functions attended by the Pope.

Dr. Newman on a Gentleman

I saw quoted a few days ago, says "M.A.P." of London (Mr. T. P. O'Connor's paper), in a weekly journal, Cardinal Newman's well-known description of a gentleman, and I cannot do better than give that quotation: "It is almost the definition of a gentleman to say he is one who never inflicts pain. He has his eyes on all his company; he is tender towards the distant and merciful towards the absurd; he can recollect to whom he is speaking; he guards against unseasonable allusions or topics which may irritate; he is seldom prominent in conversation, and never wearisome. He makes light of favors while he does them and seems to be receiving when he is conferring. He never speaks of himself except when compelled, never defends himself by a mere retort, he has no care for slander or gossip, is scrupulous in imputing motives to others who interfere with him and interprets everything for the best. He is never mean or little in his disputes, never takes unfair advantage, never mistakes personalities or sharp sayings for arguments, or insinuates evil which he dare not say out."

Skelly—Robitaille

A pretty midwinter wedding was solemnized at St. Joseph's Church, Ottawa, on Tuesday, the 17th inst., when Miss Mary Adelaide Robitaille became the bride of Mr. J. J. Skelly of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. The pastor, Rev. Wm. Murphy, O.M.I., performed the ceremony and said the nuptial mass. To the sweet sounds of the Wedding March the bride entered the church, leaning on the arm of her father, and proceeded to the altar railing, where the groom was waiting to receive her. She wore a beautiful brown travelling suit with hat and trimmings to match. The bridesmaid, Miss Olive Robitaille, sister of the bride, was also beautifully gowned in brown. Mr. M. D. Kelly acted as best man.

Quite a large number of friends were present notwithstanding that the ceremony took place at a very early hour. The wedding breakfast was served at the home of the bride's parents, Nicholas street, where the immediate friends of the young couple gathered to offer their congratulations. Many beautiful wedding gifts were received by the bride, Mr. and Mrs. Skelly left by the early train for New York and other eastern cities on their honeymoon.

On the evening previous to his wedding Mr. Skelly was presented with a beautiful wedding gift from the entire staff of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, as a token of esteem in which he is held by his fellow clerks who wished him many years of happiness. Although he was completely surprised Mr. Skelly, being a suitable man, thinking all of them for their many acts of kindness and for their good wishes on the present occasion.

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Gold Leaf in Bibles

Figures cannot lie, but they are often misleading. Take, for instance, the statistics furnished from time to time by the great Protestant Bible publication societies of the millions upon millions of copies of the Good Book that are printed and distributed—or rather supposed to be distributed—among the heathens. We say "supposed to be distributed" because it has long been known that much of this vast output is destined for strange and sometimes base uses. The Chicago "Chronicle" is responsible for the following: "James," said the English gold manufacturer, "we are out of Bibles. Go down town and buy six dozen." James in due course returned with the Bibles in a hand cart. They were taken from him by three men, their covers were torn off and the pages were trimmed with sharp knives down to a certain small size. Then these little reduced papers were sewed together into a multitude of small books.

The small books were distributed among the hands, and in them the firm's output of gold leaf was packed—between every two Biblical leaves a leaf of gold. "It seems irreverent, not to say sacrilegious, I know," said the head of the firm, "but we always do so. We have done so for generations. Gold leaf is always put on the market in little books made of Bibles. "Why? I'll tell you why. Gold leaf must be packed between printed instead of plain pages, for the reason that it would slip out of plain pages, which are too smooth for it, whereas the indentations made by the types on the printed pages are just sufficient to hold the leaf in place firmly. That's why printed pages are used. "We choose among all printed pages Bible ones, for the reason that the Bible is the best printed book a-going. The type is more evenly set and the printing is finer than in any other work, and we need the best typesetting and printing in our business, you know, for any roughness or unevenness is apt to tear the gold leaf."

That's why all English gold leaf is packed in Bibles. It's a necessary thing to do, but all the same, I've often wondered that the churches have never gotten after us gold leaf manufacturers for our irreverence. Do you wish to be at peace? Think less of yourself and a little more of those who love him. They will not tell you, but they know, and herein lies the magnanimous courage of love, that it endures the knowledge without change.

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THE CANADIAN NORTHWEST

HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS. Any area numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the North-west Territories, excepting a and 26, which has not been homesteaded, or reserved to provide wood lots for settlers, or for other purposes, may be homesteaded upon by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section of 160 acres, more or less. ENTRY. Entry may be made personally at the local land office for the District in which the land to be taken is situated, or if the homesteader desires he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, the Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, or the Local Agent for the district in which the land is situated, receive authority for someone to make entry for him. A fee of \$10 is charged for a homestead entry.

HOMESTEAD DUTIES

A settler who has been granted an entry for a homestead is required by the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and the amendments thereto to perform the conditions connected therewith, under one of the following plans: (1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year during the term of three years. (2) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of any person who is eligible to make a homestead entry under the provisions of this Act, resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for by such person as a homestead, the requirements of this Act as to residence prior to obtaining patent may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother. (3) If a settler was entitled to and has obtained entry for a second homestead, the requirements of this Act as to residence prior to obtaining patent may be satisfied by residence upon the first homestead, if the second homestead is in the vicinity of the first homestead. (4) If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead the requirements of this Act as to residence may be satisfied by residence upon the said land. The term "vicinity" used above is meant to indicate the same township or an adjoining or cornering township. A settler who avails himself of the provisions of Clauses (2), (3) or (4) must cultivate 30 acres of his homestead, or substitute 20 head of stock, with buildings for their accommodation, and have besides 80 acres substantially fenced. The privilege of a second entry is restricted by law to those settlers only who completed the duties upon their first homesteads to entitle them to patent on or before the 2nd June, 1889. Every homesteader who fails to comply with the requirements of the homestead law is liable to have his entry cancelled, and the land may be again thrown open for entry.

APPLICATION FOR PATENT

Should be made at the end of the three years, before the Local Agent, Sub-Agent or the Homestead Inspector. Before making application for patent the settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa of his intention to do so. INFORMATION. Newly arrived immigrants will receive at the Immigration Office in Winnipeg, or at any Dominion Lands Office in Manitoba or the North-west Territories information as to the lands that are open for entry, and from the office in charge, free of expense, advice and assistance in selecting lands to suit them. Full information respecting the land, timber, coal and mineral laws, as well as respecting Dominion Lands in the Railway Belt in British Columbia, may be obtained upon application to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa; the Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, Manitoba; or to any of the Dominion Lands Agents in Manitoba or the North-west Territories. W. W. CORY, Deputy Minister of the Interior. N.B.—In addition to Free Grant Lands, to which the Regulations above stated refer, thousands of acres of most desirable lands are available for lease or purchase from Railroad and other Corporations and private firms in Western Canada.

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