

Our Observer.

An American contemporary says:—Weyler says it is the aim of his life to lead an invading army into the United States. It would be bad for him and his army if the American people ever found it out.

NOTWITHSTANDING everything to the contrary and all the inflated cables sent out to the American press, it is delightful to note that from the most reliable sources itself, from the Vatican, comes the news that our Holy Father Pope Leo XIII. has commenced the year 1898 in the best of health.

An exchange says: The preacher who refused a donation of \$50 from Tammany Hall for the poor of his congregation preferred that some should go hungry that he might exploit himself and his lam-holier-than-thou pharisaism. Such stagey capering is ridiculous.

THE Buffalo Express prints a record of the lynchings in the United States reported in press despatches from June 8 to December 30. The total is 77. Of the victims, 51 were negro men, 22 white men, 3 Indians, and 1 white woman. The offences are: Assault on women and children, 36; murder, 22; robbery, 5; horse or mule stealing, 3; arson, 2; shielding men wanted by mobs, 2; giving evidence against whitecaps, 2; and one each for wife-beating, "general principles," being a negro school-teacher, teaching negroes music, revenge on a constable, besides one woman for unknown reasons.

One Mr. C. B. Buckley, of Springfield, Ohio, rejoices in the title of champion pail eater of the world, having finished sixty of those plump little birds in thirty days, or an average of two per diem, for which gastronomic feat he was awarded the sum of \$25. Dr. Tanner, his rival gorger, gave up at his forty-eighth bird. Buckley is game to do the same thing again for \$1 per bird; he further offers the sporting bet of \$250 that he will eat nine fried rats within 18 days after he has finished his sixtieth pail, or will take the same sum that he will eat six dozen hen-eggs at one sitting. Most people would rather board Mr. Buckley for a day than a week.

For pure unadulterated nerve a female of our community takes the prize without any competition. She purloined an article from a well known department store and came back the next day to have the article changed for some other goods, but this led to her undoing. In one of the departments of this store there was for sale a certain article, the only one of its kind, valued at \$4.50. A few days ago a well-dressed woman entered this department and went up to one of the clerks, showing an article and saying that she wished it changed for something else. The clerk was well posted on the stock and knew that there was one article similar in the department, but thought that it might have been sold when she was absent on the previous day. "What did you pay for that?" inquired the clerk. "\$1.75," answered the woman. Then the clerk opened a drawer and discovered that the article she had in view was not in stock, and inquiry of the other clerks revealed the fact that it had not been sold. A series of examinations rather shocked the woman and she began to have doubts as to where the article was bought, and finally was induced to leave the article and her name and address. She has not yet returned to claim the article, and there is a case of a shoplifter over-reaching herself.

There are widely diverging tastes amongst Catholics in the matter of Church music. On the continent of Europe, the Gregorian obtains generally, and has almost undisturbed sway. In England and Ireland, and, it may be said, in all English-speaking communities, on both sides of the Atlantic, while "Plain Chant" is considered by all to be in best keeping with certain seasons and certain occasions, and is, admittedly, solemn and, at all times, inspiring, the master works of Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Gounod, Litz, and even the lighter creations of Farmer, Lambilliotte and others, are considered not inappropriate and even more suited to the general character of church services, and are, undeniably, more in accord with the tastes of the masses. It is equally undeniable that what may be regarded as the more educated taste inclines to the Gregorian, or, "Plain Chant," and this is especially noticeable with converts, who, almost invariably, uphold the more solemn strains of what claims to be ecclesiastical, in contradistinction to secular, music. It is argued by those who advocate the high class music, that the very best efforts of human genius should be imparted into every effort to praise and glorify the Creator, whether they be those of the painter, the sculptor, the

architect or the musician, and that, upon this principle, the creations of a Mozart should go hand in hand with those of a Rubens or a Michael Angelo, lending the triumphs of their minds and hands to make His temples as attractive and, in every respect, as worthy of Him as the work of man can make them. Those who, thus, favor secular music, are not unmindful that the "Gregorian," or "Church music proper," is entitled to all the praise and preference its admirers bestow upon it. It has done, and is still doing, splendid duty, and the best admirer of Beethoven or Haydn would never consent to its withdrawal from the services of the Church. Lighter music can only be treated as a pleasing auxiliary to the older and more devotional Gregorian.

The more closely the question is studied the plainer does it become that in this city English speaking Catholics have long been, and are still being, discriminated against in a manner which should cause not only deep indignation but immediate agitation. For many years the Protestant charitable institutions have been receiving monetary grants from the Provincial Government that aggregate fifty times as much as those which are under English speaking Catholic management. Our readers will, we feel sure, read the following extract from the blue book entitled "The Public Accounts," for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1897, with as much surprise as we ourselves did:—

Protestant Hospital for the Insane, allowance for year.....	\$37,260
Protestant Hospital for the Insane, grant in aid of extension	8,336
Montreal General Hospital.....	5,000
Mackay Institute.....	3,000
Indigent Sick.....	2,200
Protestant House of Industry.....	420
Protestant Home for Friendless Women.....	105
Montreal Maternity.....	232
Protestant Ladies' Benevolent Institute.....	637
Protestant Infants' Home.....	210
Protestant Church Home.....	135
Sheltering Home.....	150
Montreal Protestant Foundling Nursery.....	187
Protestant "Sisters of St. Margaret" Society.....	200
Western Hospital.....	262
Herve Institute.....	168

Here is all the English-speaking Catholic institutions receive:

St. Patrick's Hospital.....	\$1,150
St. Patrick's Orphan Asylum.....	386
St. Bridget's Asylum.....	420

When it is borne in mind that the English-speaking Catholics in Montreal outnumber their Protestant fellow-citizens, and are, as a rule, more deserving recipients of Government aid for their charitable institutions owing to their lack of this world's wealth, the crying injustice of this wholesale discrimination will be apparent. The Montreal General Hospital authorities it should be stated, will not allow Catholics to act as nurses in that institution; and as to the Mackay Institute, which receives a much larger annual grant from the Provincial Government than all the English speaking Catholic charitable institutions put together, it is professionally, exclusively and distinctively a Protestant establishment; no Catholic boy or girl will be admitted to it on any consideration whatever.

A practical point in this connection would seem to be that English-speaking Catholics should divide up their charitable institutions into a large number of small ones, and then apply for a grant from each. That something must be done in the matter it is unnecessary to insist.

The Quebec Daily Telegraph, in a recent issue, says:—

"The bishops are called to meet at Montreal on the 4th January, probably to receive the full text of the Encyclical from Mr. Bruchesi, and to discuss the new situation which it creates as regards the Manitoba question. So far so good. But we may say that we hope there is no truth in the current report that two prominent Bleu politicians, Hon. J. J. Ross and Hon. Mr. Desjardins, have been also invited to attend this meeting. The presence of party politicians at such a gathering would certainly appear very strange, especially in view of the fact that the Holy Father appeals, not merely to the Bleus to obtain full justice for the Manitoba Catholics, but to all Canadians without reference to creed or political color, and that the bishops are advised especially to be prudent. In fact, it is safe to say forthwith, and to say it emphatically, that any attempt to make a party question again out of this Manitoba trouble will most certainly prevent the laudable hope and aim of the Holy Father from being realized."

The Telegraph will have realized by this time that there was no cause for the anxiety it expressed about two politicians being invited to take part in the deliberations of the Archbishop and Bishops on Tuesday last. Indeed it is surprising that any well informed journal should have given currency to such an utterly absurd idea. It is well known that neither bleus, rouges, or greens, or laymen of any color, no matter what their social, political or official status, would be invited to take part in the ecclesiastical councils of this or any Archdiocese, and it is essentially unbecomingly, to use the very mildest term, to hint that the present worthy incumbent of the Archbishop's office would compromise the character of his position by making such a wide departure from the beaten track.

ST. GABRIEL'S PARISH

The New Presbytery to be Occupied on Monday Next.

An Outline of the Beautiful Structure—It Reflects Credit on the Pastor and Parishioners.—Mr. John S. Shea and the Choir Organization—Other Matters.

The magnificent new presbytery erected for the devoted and energetic Pastor of St. Gabriel's Parish, Rev. Wm. O'Meara, and his zealous assistant, Rev. Father Heffernan, will be occupied on Monday next. In a previous issue we have given our readers an outline of the character of the new parochial residence, but it will not be out of place to give a few more details of the structure, which reflects great credit upon all those interested. In an interview with the architect, Mr. J. A. Korch, we were able to secure the following facts:—

The building is of the American Renaissance style. The stone work above the base course is in Scotch masonry, for the first story. The sills, heads, reveals, quoins, etc., and the front entrance is in Credit Valley brown sand stone. The sides and part of front elevation being in Don Valley press bricks. The window trimmings are also in Credit Valley sandstone. The interior will be completed in most modern conveniences, the woodwork being finely finished in oak and cotton wood stained to match different woods such as mahogany, light and dark cherry and green satin wood. The entrance hall and staircase hall are of the Renaissance style; the arches are well and richly carved. The mantel piece in staircase hall is in oak, finished in green and gold. The opening in upper mantel is filled lead art glass, "The Annunciation." The columns between the hall and staircase hall are in marble, all the floors throughout the building being in red brick, oiled and polished. The plastering throughout the building is done in rock granite cement. The walls are all finished in oil colors. Loaded glass panels in all doors facing halls. The plumbing work is of the very best, and all exposed pipes, etc., are nickel plated. The building is heated with twin hot water Buffalo boilers.

The following are the contractors:—Masonry—John G. Sullivan. Brickwork—A. Boyer & Co. Plumbing—Carroll Bros. Painting and lead glass—H. O'Brien & Co. Heating and Roofing—Pelletier & Bros.

Plastering—John Morrison & Co. Marble, Tile and Mosaic work—W. McNell. Carpenter and Joiners—Paquet & Gauthier. Electric Wiring and Brass fixtures—Canada Electric Co.

Mr. John S. Shea, the official head of the choral organization of St. Gabriel's Parish, deserves great credit for the manner in which he has succeeded in bringing the musical corps under his direction to a place in the front rank of choirs of this city. The work of the chorists on Christmas and New Year's festivals was of a superior order.

Miss M. Byrne, the organist, is a painstaking worker, and deserves much praise for the able manner in which she assists the conductor.

Master J. Shea, the talented young son of Mr. John S. Shea, whose rapid rise in musical circles in Montreal has awakened the greatest interest in the midst of Irish Catholics, has gone on a trip to New York with his grandparents. Master Shea, who is only 13 years of age, has a future full of promise.

The Choir will hold their annual concert choir. The director, Mr. J. S. Shea, is now arranging the preliminaries.

Rev. Father O'Meara congratulated the choir for their splendid rendition of Faconner's Mass, and Conductor Shea was made the recipient of many congratulations from the parishioners in the same direction.

A BOY BAPTIZING HIMSELF.

St. Augustine speaks of the soul as "naturally Christian." A remarkable instance of this natural longing for union with God through fulfillment of the law of Christ is recorded in the last issue of the American Ecclesiastical Review. A priest relates that one evening a lady called upon him, and though professing no religion asked to be baptized. The priest explained that unless she believed in the efficacy of the ceremony he could not perform it. "Could a person who is not baptized himself baptize me?" she queried. "Yes," was the reply. "But he must believe." "Yes," "That is right," she continued; "my boy died a Catholic. He baptized himself. Give me one of your books and I shall try to believe if I can." Then she told how her little boy feeling as if he were going to die begged that he might be baptized. She put him off with the remark that he was not about to die, and she sent away the Catholic nurse who had, she believed, influenced the child. A few days afterwards her little son asked for water, and when he got it, taking some with his feeble hand he put it on his forehead, saying, "I baptize myself in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." The case was a decidedly touching one, and the editor of The American Ecclesiastical Review, answering the priest's request for information as to the validity of the baptism, observes that any person who should sincerely attempt to baptize himself in such an emergency would receive the grace of baptism, that is to say, salvation, not through the sacrament of faith, but through his faith in the Sacrament.

OUR ST. ANN'S RAMBLER.

The Entertainment in Aid of the Building Fund of the Mother House at Monkland.

Notes of the Doings of the St. Ann's Young Men's Society.—Mr. P. Flannery Made Supreme Deputy of the C. M.B.A. for the Province—Gossip of the Circle Elections.—In Montreal to Have a Tammany Hall?

On Wednesday evening last, January the 5th, there was held a most enjoyable entertainment in St. Ann's Hall, on the corner of Ottawa and Young streets. The object of the affair was to raise a subscription in aid of the fund for the reconstruction of the Mother House of the Sisters of the Congregation de Notre Dame. The entertainment was given by the ex-pupils of the Congregation de Notre Dame, St. Ann's Academy, and never was there an occasion of the kind more successful both in brilliancy of execution or in point of audience.

It speaks well for the great Irish Catholic parish of St. Ann's that it sent its thousands to be present at so delightful an exhibition, and the artists who did their part on the stage were well worthy of the numerous ovations accorded their efforts.

Rev. Father Strubbe, the esteemed pastor of St. Ann's, was in the chair, and all the prominent members of the parish were present. The programme was a well selected one and was successful from start to finish. The overture was the "Vienna Grand March," in which there figured the Misses K. Hart, L. Donnelly and K. O'Neill. Mrs. J. Kenahan and Miss E. Kenahan sang a duet, "I Heard a Voice," which was loudly applauded. Miss R. Loneragan gave the recitation "Smiling the Rock," and the first part of the programme was concluded by a song by Miss Margie Phelan, entitled "Papa's Treasure."

One of the most interesting items of the evening followed, after a short intermission. It was an exhibition of drill by the junior pupils, and the evolutions and different movements were gone through with a poetry of motion and clockwork-like regularity that spoke volumes in praise of their instructors.

Professor W. Sullivan gave a pretty performance on the violin, after which the Misses M. Mahoney and A. Donnelly treated the audience to an instrumental duet. Then came the grand chorists and then more instrumental music by Miss M. Clancy and Miss M. A. McArthur. Miss Maggie Finn sang "The Last Sail," "St. Patrick at Tara" was a magnificent tableau. Professor Sullivan gave a bapto selection, and the grand finale closed one of the most delightful and successful entertainments ever held in St. Ann's Y. M. Hall.

The object, to raise funds in aid of the Mother House, was achieved, and the pupils of the congregation and the pupils who aided them in their undertaking, have reason to congratulate themselves.

Mr. James Martin has now completed his work on his new play, "The Rebel of '88," and it is expected that the dramatic section of St. Ann's Young Men's Society will take up their respective parts early next week, for a preliminary reading and making of arrangements for the necessary costumes and stage fittings. Prof. P. J. Shea, upon whom will fall the important task of arranging the musical features to accompany the production, is now busily engaged at his task, and it is whispered that the talented musician will surpass all his previous efforts in this direction.

The gossip in connection with the Municipal elections, which are to be held at the close of the present month, is becoming more interesting. Mr. Daniel Gallery and Ald. Bernard Connaughton, the latter now holding one of the civic chairs for the district, will, it is said, again cross swords. Mr. Gallery is confident of success, while Ald. Connaughton seems to feel perfectly satisfied that he will be again placed at the head of the polls. The contest will be a lively one from present appearances, as Mr. Gallery has been personally canvassing the ward for sometime past.

So far there is to be no opponent for Ald. Thomas Kinella. There was some mention made of the name of ex Alderman Conroy some few weeks ago, but nothing is now heard to warrant expect-

Head and Limbs

All Covered With Eruptions—Could Not Work, the Suffering Was Severe—Hood's Has Cured.

"I was all run down with complaints peculiar to my sex, and I broke out in sores on my body, head, limbs and hands, and my hair all came out. I was under the doctor's treatment a long time without benefit. They called my trouble eczema. Finally I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, and after I had used three or four bottles I found I was improving. I kept on until I had taken several more bottles and the sores and itching have disappeared and my hair has grown out."

Mrs. J. G. Brown, Brantford, Ontario.

"I was all run down and had no appetite. I had a tired feeling all the time. I was advised to try Hood's Sarsaparilla. I did so and it benefited me so much that I would not be without it." Mrs. G. I. BURNETT, Central North, N. B.

Hood's Sarsaparilla Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier.

Readers OF THE "True Witness"

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THIS WEEK.

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ation that that gentleman will again take up the cudgel, and don his war paint for the purpose of securing a place in the wigwag of the big braves at the City Hall.

For some months past there has been a great deal of talk about organizing a miniature Tammany organization in Montreal, and a well known young citizen, whose talents have often been called into requisition in the administration of civic and political matters during election time, stated recently that he was moving such a movement would be organized. He spoke in glowing terms of the good results which would flow from such an undertaking. It would mean, said he, the consolidation of a certain section of the elect rate in many districts which has been estranged in numberless ways during the past few years.

Mr. P. FLANNERY, one of the most known residents of St. Ann's district of Montreal, and an enthusiastic worker in the cause of promoting the prosperity of Irish national, charitable and benevolent organizations, has been appointed Supreme Deputy of the C. M. B. A. for the Province of Quebec. Mr. Flannery's nomination is an excellent one, and is certain to bear good fruit, as he is highly esteemed by all classes.

OBITUARY.

Mr. William F. Casey.

It has seldom even our sad duty to record a death which brings up more cherished memories or excited more heartfelt sorrow than that of Mr. William F. Casey, which occurred on the 23rd ultimo. It was indeed a sad coincidence that this old year should close on the scenes of his death-bed, and that the new year should open on the loss of his burial—but such was the will of Him who does all for the best and it must be accepted as the one inevitable issue all must face and to which those who left behind must bow with sorrowing hearts, it may be, but with hearts which in this case should be truly hopeful and even cheered by the knowledge that he for whom they mourn was prepared to meet His Maker and confident of deserving His mercy and goodness. Those who knew him through all his days know that they were so spent as to assure him the reward of the just steward.

In all the relations of life he proved himself an exemplary citizen; and gained and retained the respect, confidence and good will of all who came in contact with him. At first engaged in business on his own private account he subsequently, in 1885, entered the Government employ, as an assistant in the Chief Quagier's office at the Port of Montreal, and by his ability, tact and industry rapidly rose to the highest position in that branch of the department, which he held till July 1895, when ill health, superinduced by the loss of his wife, who died four years ago—compelled him to resign. Mr. Casey was a devout member of St. Anthony's congregation, and identified himself with all the charitable societies and good works of that parish. In his earlier days he was an enthusiastic leader in all things connected with the parish choir of St. Ann's, and promoted its interests all through life, being possessed of great musical taste and ability. He was an exemplary member of the Third Order of St. Francis, and will be greatly missed from the ranks of those who had learned to look upon him as a model of piety and zeal. Mr. Casey leaves behind him two sons and a daughter—being Edward F. Casey, the popular choir-master of St. Anthony's, Thomas W. Casey, of the M. S. Railway Co., and Miss Mary J. Casey.—to each and all of whom the TRUE WITNESS extends its sincerest condolence in this, the hour of their severe trial.

The Bishop of Havana has been gathering authoritative reports of the deaths in Cuba for the last year. The priests of all the parishes report to him the number of persons who have died in their districts from famine, epidemics or war. The Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba has been collecting similar statistics, and up to this time they have found that 500,000 have died in Cuba in this short time. It is to be observed that the

status registered in the parishes are those only of persons buried according to law and the regulations of the Catholic Church. The pestilence assassinated by the Spanish troops, the Spanish and Cuban soldiers killed in battle, the thousands who have died in the country of smallpox, dysentery, beriberi and starvation are not included.

OTTAWA COLLEGE

The Scene of a Most Disastrous Fire.

East Wing Seriously Damaged—Loss Said to be Seventy-five Thousand Dollars—Fully Covered by Insurers.

The disaster which occurred to the University of Ottawa is deeply regretted by the Catholics of the Dominion, inasmuch as it must seriously interfere with the working of that important educational institution, independent of the loss and inconvenience it must entail upon the good Catholic Fathers and upon the students of the Seminary and College.

In Montreal, which commiserates its first and most respected citizens many who claim it as their "Alma Mater," special regard is held for the good old University and earnest regret for the disaster that has befallen it. We feel every certainty that, "Phoenix" like, it will rise from its ashes, brighter and more hopeful than ever, and proceed on its career with renewed life and vigor.

The fire, which occurred on Wednesday morning last, was first discovered in the dormitory of the University, which was located in the upper story. How it occurred it is impossible to say. All the students have been away for the Christmas and New Year's holidays, and the College does not open until Monday next. At present there are only the Seminary classes, or ecclesiastical. These students number 35 in all.

From the dormitory the fire extended downward to the second floor, on which is the seminary and chapel. Both these flats are entirely destroyed. All that is left are the walls.

The ground floor, in which were situated the rooms of Father Constantineau and Father Pallier, is badly damaged. The chapel is badly damaged. It is here that the greatest loss occurred.

The loss to the chapel alone is estimated at from \$45,000 to \$60,000. The entire loss is put at about \$65,000 or \$75,000. It is covered by insurance. All the insurance is said to be held by Montreal agents. The insurance on the whole building is \$245,000, divided as follows:—

Quebec Fire Insurance Company, \$20,000; Agricultural Insurance Company, \$5,000; Phoenix Company, of London, \$5,000; North British and Mercantile, \$15,000; Connecticut Fire Insurance Company, \$5,000; Scottish Union and National Insurance Company, \$30,000; Insurance Company of North America, \$20,000; Phoenix Insurance Company of Hartford, \$10,000; London Assurance Company, \$20,000; Alliance Assurance Company, \$20,000; Northern Assurance Company, \$20,000; Guardian Assurance Company, \$20,000.

The Sisters of St. Patrick's Orphan Asylum desire to thank the following kind friends for their useful presents to the orphans for Christmas:—Mr. Tamney, 15 geese and 15 turkeys; Mr. Morley, 5 turkeys; Miss McGarvey 1 turkey and 1 goose; Mr. Burke, 2 turkeys; Mr. P. Wright, 1 turkey and 1 goose; Mrs. D. Furlong, 2 geese, lettuce and celery; Brown & Bros., 2 ducks and roast of beef; Mrs. McDonald, candies; Mr. P. A. Mulvey, 6 dozen ginger ale; Mr. Christie, 1 bbl. apples; Mr. Barry, 1 bbl. apples; Blouin, Desforges & Latourville, candies; Mr. Jas. Parker, donation of meats; Tarnney Bros., 1 tin of tea; Lang Cracker Co., 3 boxes crackers; Miss Desmond, candies.

TWO WARNINGS.

Losing flesh is one and a hacking cough is another. If they come together the warning is a loud and hard one. Scott's Emulsion does some of its best work in just these cases. It prevents consumption.