

The Martyrs of the Coliseum, and the Catacombs of Rome.

A free lecture with this title was given on Monday evening in St. Bartholomew's Church by Rev. A. J. O'Reilly, of Toronto. There was a fair audience. The lecture lasted about an hour.

The lecturer commenced by saying that the first persecution of the Church was commenced under Nero, whose name is the very prototype of everything that is cruel. When Nero was a young man, he yet the pride of power had blasted the impress of a noble and generous soul, he sighed when he had first to sign the death-bond of a criminal, and is said to have remarked "It would have been good if I had never learned to write." In after years, Nero sighed that the people of Rome had not but one head, that he might cut them all off at one blow. He burned the city and then accused the Christians of the deed, and thousands on thousands were put to death by him. Nero gave his own gardens for the place of slaughter, and so terrible was the persecution that we are told the blood of Christians ran twelve inches deep in some portions of the garden. At night the flame of the burning bodies cast a glare over the whole city. On this ground, where as many as eighteen thousand Christians were put to death in one day, there now stands the grandest monument man ever built to the glory of God—the famous Cathedral of St. Peter's. For nine centuries after Nero's death his tomb was haunted by devils, showing the horror of his character; and when in 889, the urn was found which contained his bones, the enraged people carried it to the river Tiber and threw it into its waters.

It was after the death of Nero that the Catacombs were first known. Excavations had been made by the Romans for sand which would make the durable mortar with which their buildings were erected and the Christians commenced at these excavations to make their own cemeteries. Subterranean passages were excavated covering an area of fourteen square miles, and the avenues, if in one single line, would reach about 750 miles. These avenues were intended for burial places, and there are seven million spaces for dead bodies, over three millions of which are occupied by remains of noble dead. The tombs of the martyrs are sometimes marked by a palm and cross which are laid on them; and on many of them will be found a small phial of blood. That blood was gathered by the Christians in sponges. They would go to the scene of the martyrdom and they would have to steal their way to the bodies in the night, often being assisted by God himself, who would scare away the dogs or the keepers that guarded the bodies. They would catch the liquid blood and put it into a bottle, and where they could not catch it they would try to extract it from the wounds of the dead martyrs, in order to mark their last resting places. It is a strange and curious fact, that the blood, in most cases, is yet liquid.

Among the labyrinths of these Catacombs, many persons have been lost. One young English lady occupied in reading the epitaphs, strayed from her party and could not return. She called and was answered, but the sound appearing to come from a direction opposite where it was made, although she may have heard her friends, she was misled. Some years afterwards her skeleton was found five miles away from the entrance. In the Lives of the Saints are records of several who were miraculously saved, after wandering for days in these labyrinths, by promising it released, to do some great work.

The Coliseum covered eight acres of ground, and is computed to have held 150,000 persons. Here the people gathered to witness battles between animals which had been rendered savage by comparative starvation; then men were put to fight with animals, and lastly men would fight with each other. In this cruel warfare, hundreds of slaves were killed. After these performances, the Christians would be brought into the arena, but strange to say—the animals would crouch but would not harm the Christian Martyrs. In one instance—a youth named Marinus was put into the arena, but the savage animals when they saw him came up and licked his hands and face. The people waited to see what the animals would do, but as they did not harm Marinus they were led to their dens and the little captive was led away in chains. The lecture closed with remarks on the trials through which the Church had passed, showing that in them all she had preserved the doctrines held since the beginning.

A NEST OF POTATO BUGS.—The Hamilton Spectator has the following:—On Saturday last Mr. S. W. Wallbridge came upon a curious sight as he was digging in his garden in the east end just below the city limits. He was removing a small tree into shelter for the winter, when, in taking away the earth from the roots, a large nest of potato bugs numbering nearly 5,000 was unearthed. The greater number of the bugs were in a semi-torpid state, but many of them had not lost their usual activity and marched off at a business-like pace when disturbed. They were all in a heap when turned up, and were clustered around a ball-shaped knot of dry grass such as mice make their nest of. That these bugs lay up for winter in congregations is not generally understood, as they appear to enter the earth for that season singly.

BREAKFAST.—Epps's Cocoa.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoas, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which will save us many heavy doctors' bills. —Civil Service Gazette. Made simply with boiling water or milk. Each packet is labelled—"James Epps & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London."

A CAPACIOUS SCHOONER.—The Toledo Blade announces that the largest vessel which has ever sailed on the fresh water lakes is now being built in a shipyard in that city. She is to be a four-masted schooner, 245 feet long, 40 feet beam, 18 feet hold, double decks, 1,800 tons displacement. Her carrying capacity is 80,000 bushels of wheat, and her cost will reach \$80,000. She is building on an order from Nims & Co., Buffalo.

NATURE'S DIABET.—Is your hair falling out? Is your hair growing dry and lifeless? Is your hair less pliable and glossy than of yore? It wants a good healthy hair dressing to help exhausted nature to recover itself. Try Bearine and mark the change.

See those Dress Goods for 25 cents per yard at GEORGE JEFFREY'S.

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We show this Week the Cheapest Lot of Goods ever before shown in Guelph

NOTE THE FOLLOWING PRICES:

500 pieces Fine Scoured Wincey at 10s, worth at least 15s.  
379 bales Fine yd wide Factory Cotton 10s, worth 12s—this cotton is great value.  
1000 pieces Dress Goods, in check and stripes, from 6s a yard—terrifically low.  
10,000 pieces New Styles D.K. Prints, at 9s, worth 12s.  
147 doz. Reversible Wool Shawls, lovely for winter wear, 11 York Shillings, worth \$3.  
150 pieces extra Heavy Filled Cloth, only half a dollar, worth 75c a yard.  
Ladies' Clouds, Nubias, Scarfs, beautiful and warm, at 12s each, in endless variety

With pleasure we inform the Ladies of Guelph that we have secured the valuable services of Miss Manny as principal in our Mantle Department. The name of Miss Marney is sufficient guarantee that the orders entrusted to her care will give eminent satisfaction.

Remember the Store—THE GOLDEN LION—where the once wonderful John Hogg was, and where the now wonderful J. D. WILLIAMSON is. Although unprincipled men have been trying to impose on the people that the Lion has been moved up street, the Lion is still in the old spot, next door to Mr. John Horsman's, Lower Wyndham street. Where the Lion is, there the Bargains are.

Golden Lion, Wyndham Street, Guelph.

J. D. WILLIAMSON.

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THE NEW AND POWERFUL MATERIAL

For Blasting Rocks, Boulders, etc.

IS NOW TO BE HAD AT

JOHN HORSMAN'S GUELPH.

ONE CHARGE WILL SCATTER TO FRAGMENTS THE LARGEST BOULDER. WILL BLAST A ROCK IN WATER QUITE AS WELL AS IF DRY.

Quarrymen should use it.

Farmers should use it.

The British House of Commons recommends it.

JOHN HORSMAN, General Hardware Merchant, GUELPH.

Encourage Home Manufacture

STOVES



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STILL LOWER IN PRICE!

We still live in spite of those who have lost a greater portion of their legitimate trade, and are obliged to become tinkers.

Also: GREAT REDUCTION IN TINWARE

Give us a call before buying elsewhere, as we are determined not to be undersold. Our stock is the largest west of Hamilton and Toronto.

MILLS & GOODFELLOW.

Guelph, Oct. 21, 1874

dw11

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Call and see J. Hunter's NEW STOCK

WOOLS, FANCY GOODS, JEWELLERY, SMALL WARES, TOYS, WALL PAPERS, STATIONERY, SCHOOL BOOKS, HAIR GOODS, CHIFFONNS, SWITCHES, BRAIDS, &c., &c.

Full lines in every Department.

All new and the BEST VALUE at the LOWEST PRICE.

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Stamping, for Binding and Embroidery. Kid Glove and Slippers cleaned. Feathers cleaned and curled. Agent for Mrs. Demorest's patterns.

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Men's English and American style of

Gaiters and Shoes;

Ladies and Children's

GOAT, KID AND PRUNELLA

Which for style, finish and durability, will be found superior to any in Guelph.

Particular attention paid to

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Remember the Noted Sho Store,

G. S. POWELL,

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A splendid and choice assortment

OF

COAL SCUTTLES

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COAL VASES.

These are really select patterns, and well worthy the inspection of those about to purchase.

John M. Bond & Co.

Direct Hardware Importers,

Wyndham Street, Guelph.

Guelph, Oct. 15, 1874. do

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BILLIARD HALL,

In the Queen's Hotel, Guelph, opposite the Market.

Theroom has just been refitted in splendid style, the tables reduced in size, and everything done to make it a first-class Billiard Hall.

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A Beautiful Stock of Boy's Clothing now on exhibition.

A beautiful lot of Furnishing Goods just received from England embracing all the latest novelties in

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All styles in HATS and CAPS, the biggest stock in town.

Please call and you will be convinced of our cheapness.

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