



MAGNIFICENT RECEPTION TO SIR WILFRID LAURIER.

Canada's Premier enthusiastically Received in Toronto—Massey Music Hall a Scene of Brilliance and Beauty—Eloquent Speeches Received with Plaudits Loud and Sincere.

(Special Correspondence to the True Witness by Margaret L. Hart.)

As an event epoch making in its character, and as a scene reaching the culmination of beauty, enthusiasm and inspiration at every possible point, the banquet and reception tendered Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Massey Music Hall, Toronto, on Wednesday, the 21st. February, will live in the minds of all who witnessed or took part, and "the night of the banquet" will be a new point from which to mark future events. The object of the meeting, that of proving to the Premier that throughout the vast stretch of the Dominion there are none more loyal and true to the chief than the Reformers of Ontario, was loyally achieved, and the fealty and love of the men of the north were proven by their gathering from all parts of the Province, until the greatest hall in Canada was all too small to admit but a fraction of those who would have sought an entrance, and by the presence of their wives and daughters, who filled the galleries and every available coign of vantage until Massey Hall was one huge receptacle of men and women, waiting but an opportunity to break forth in exhibitions of enthusiastic devotion to the honored guest of the evening.

In preparation for the event the natural beauty of the hall had been enhanced by the most elaborate and pleasing devices that art, together with the eye and hand of man, could suggest or bring about. The large platform became for the time being a luxurious environment for the tables at which the principal guests were seated. Stretching from a common centre clear across the semi-circular dome were immense scarfs of red, white and blue, so arranged as to form a complete ceiling. From this hung draperies in scarlet, white and gold, these completely hiding the walls, and the tiers of seats at the back banked by palms gave nature's finishing touch to the happy skill of the artist. Reaching from the main floor to the floor of the platform was a circular wall of exquisite coloring and beautiful bloom. Lilies, lilacs and azaleas in white and delicate mauve rose in the centre, and from these radiated on either side artistic arrangements of massive and gorgeous exotics, yellow tulips, snowy carnations, waxen acacias and blossoms in pink, purple, golden browns and maroon, the whole set in a rich greenery of graceful Boston ferns. About this stood the guests' table, and on the snowy damask, lights shaded in red and gold were placed, while immense clusters of American Beauty roses and daffodils alternating with slender vases of lily of the valley formed an effective foreground for the row of gentlemen seated at the generously equipped board. Sir Wilfrid in the centre was a figure upon which all eyes were turned, and one which under any circumstances would be distinguished, the grand head rising from the erect and lithe form marking him as one of nature's gentlemen. The table for the eight hundred and twenty guests covered the entire floor and the same scheme of decoration was carried throughout. Festooning the galleries and boxes were graceful folds and lengths in red white and blue, each pillar adorned by triple flags in cluster, the Union Jack and tri-color predominating. The light from the immense groups of electric globules in their glistening crystal settings, and the parallel rows bordering the several arches of the domed ceiling were all thrown upon the brilliant decorations, which together with the white and handsome dresses of the ladies in the balconies and boxes, and the contrasting black and white of the chairs on the floor of the

house, made a picture such as is seldom produced. Four thousand in all were gathered within the walls, and four thousand men and women rose to their feet and with spontaneous cheer and enthusiastic waving of handkerchiefs received Sir Wilfrid, both at his entrance and when later he rose to speak. The orchestra of the Queen's Own Rifles furnished excellent music, and a bugler by a blast of his instrument announced the toasts, which were drunk in Radnor water. The chairman, Hon. Geo. W. Ross, when he rose to propose the toast of "His Majesty the King," was received with long cheers interrupted by the dignified notes of the National Anthem, at the close of which a number of other toasts were honored. The principal speakers were Ontario's late Premier and the Premier of the Dominion. The Hon. Mr. Ross spoke in the mellifluous voice and with the dry Scotch humor which is ever a characteristic of his addresses and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who when he rose to speak was greeted over and over again by the entire gathering rising to their feet, while cheer after cheer went through the building and a forest of fluttering handkerchiefs waved all over the house. The Premier spoke for over an hour and a half, and in no uncertain tones, and in strong moments of his address the tall figure rose tense and upright, while the clinched hands raised in dramatic gesture seemed to force home his declaration that the Sir Wilfrid of 1896 and the Sir Wilfrid of 1905 are one and the same man.

During the evening Lady Laurier was presented by the general committee with a magnificent cluster of American Beauty roses, the stems of which were about five feet in length. These were placed before her party seated in the gallery, and made an attractive feature in the general beauty of the scene.

Speaking in appreciation of the event, Sir Wilfrid, though his experiences have been many and great, declared that he had never seen anything like the reception given him that evening, and there is little doubt but that the remembrance of this occasion with his friends in Ontario, will remain with him forever; the hand of time will seemingly efface all trace of the great night, but the Reformers of Ontario will place it amongst the most highly treasured of their jewels in memory's casket.

HOME ANNIVERSARIES.

Encourage These Festivals and the Sentiments They Awaken.

The happiest households are those that do not let die out the sentiment connected with various anniversaries. Although gift giving or recognition of such events in a suitable way may be out of the question owing to the straitened circumstances of those "within the gates," there can yet be a little air of festivity when mother's or father's birthday comes round or some wedding anniversary is to be celebrated, says the Indianapolis News.

An extra dish, a little bunch of flowers or some special music prepared for the occasion will show the kindly spirit and the loving remembrance that count for more than the money value of any gift. As the children grow up, if these festivals are encouraged, they will have much to look forward to and much more to remember in the years to come when they go out to do battle with the world and find that sentiment is crushed underfoot and affection is regarded only as a side issue.

Do not Delay—When, through debilitated digestive organs, poison finds its way into the blood, the prime consideration is to get the poison out as rapidly and as thoroughly as possible. Delay may mean disaster. Farmelee's Vegetable Pills will be found a most valuable and effective medicine to assail the intruder with. They never fail. They go at once to the seat of the trouble and work a permanent cure.

Skepticism has ruined many a noble mind and many a hopeful work, but it has never helped to produce anything of its own, hopeful or noble or beautiful or great.

A NATIONALIST VICTORY.

Mr. Devlin Scores in an Orange Stronghold.

The election of Hon. Joseph Devlin as member of Parliament from West Belfast, heretofore an Orange stronghold, was one of the greatest victories ever scored by the Irish Nationalists. Mr. Devlin is the first Catholic to represent that district in Parliament since 1886, and his success is significant of the times and the broader spirit engendered by the Gaelic and industrial movement. The fight was between the Nationalist organization, democracy and equality on the one hand, and capital, bigotry and rank hatred of Ireland's rights on the other.

There was great rejoicing over the victory, and an enthusiastic reception was tendered the young statesman on the night of the election by the Nationalists of that section. Mr. Devlin is the national president of the A.O.H. in Ireland, and is a gifted and eloquent orator. He is a native of West Belfast, which section he will represent in Parliament, and he is greatly beloved by all who know him. His election means the addition of another enthusiastic fighter to the ranks of the Nationalist party in Parliament.

"THE COLLAPSE OF THE OLD WORLD."

It is well known that there is no love lost between England and Germany. The remarkable development of the trade of the latter country, has aroused John Bull's jealousy, who fears that in the course of time goods marked with the label "Made in Germany" will crowd the products of English manufactures out of the markets of the world. Another source of anxiety for him is the steady growth of the German navy, which a generation ago was virtually non-existent but which today has attained very respectable proportions. Indeed, in a book written by one of the highest German naval officers it is claimed that the English navy in the event of a war would be unable to obtain a decisive victory over the German naval forces.

The book in question describes an imaginary war between the two countries, which has its origin in the firing upon the German Island of Samoa by English ships of war, because the German authorities refused to permit the landing of English sailors and marines to protect English sailors who had got into trouble in the island. England establishes a blockade of the North German seacoast with a fleet of twenty battleships and a corresponding number of cruisers and smaller craft. The Germans adopt a Fabian policy, carefully avoiding open engagements and successfully harrying the English fleet with torpedo boats. Finally, this sort of naval guerilla warfare compels the English to abandon the blockade without being able to make an effort to use their superior sea power. In the meantime the cruisers on both sides are playing havoc with the English and German merchant marines. German cruisers lay hundreds of mines at the mouths of the Thames, Humber and the Firth of Forth.

On land, Germany, of course, is victorious. France, who has allied herself with England, is overrun by German armies. The German Emperor is on the point of striking the final blow, when Europe is startled by the news that the black races in Africa and the yellow races in Asia are up in arms against Europeans. A peace is immediately patched up, in order that the European nations may be able to face the black and yellow perils.

Such is a very brief synopsis of "1906—Or the Collapse of the Old World," the title of the book we have been speaking of. Its publication just at this time will not tend to allay the bitter feeling existing between Germany and England. The assertion of its author that already the German navy is so strong that it could put up a good fight against the English navy will, of course, be pooh-poohed by the English. But

there is no guarantee that the corruption and incompetency that made the English army wholly unfit for the work it was called upon to perform during the Boer war have not also invaded the navy. If that should prove to be the case, the assertion that Germany could hold her own with England on the water in case of hostilities in all probability would be verified.

WHITTIER AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Partisanship has been evidenced strikingly in the panegyrics of him which are accumulating so rapidly as to be annual almost. In this we have an example of the perpetual pride of the New Englander in his favorite brothers, however great their shortcomings, which others, who deem such partisanship narrow, would do well at times to emulate. So far, so good. It is not expected that a Puritan mind should devote one of his chapters to "The Poet and the Catholic Church." Never has he read the poet with such a thought in mind; he takes it for granted, in fact, that the poet's idea of the Roman establishment is the old orthodox idea, Protestant and indisputable. But what he omits in his review, we assume the right to insert, without feeling the need of proffering an apology. It matters little in truth what Whittier as a private individual thought of the Catholic Church, any more than of Methodism or Congregationalism. The mere reason of curiosity would be hardly a sufficient plea to take up a discussion of the subject. But Whittier was a public man who put down in books his views of men and things and churches, who formed and still forms the opinions of his readers on such matters, consequently his works are a continual challenge to those who disagree with him. It is well to remember that the written word is always the present word, as powerful to do good or ill as on the day when penned, and that the lies of history, abuse, and misrepresentation, spread their noxious influence the more they are suffered to remain undisturbed. The partisan does not see the indignity of such biots in the character of his idol, he may resent the imputation of unfairness, let alone bigotry, but the despised one who has been wrought against by such knavery must be excused if he fails to be foremost in incense and adulation, and considers it his duty and privilege to expose calumny, and resent it. If we suffer ourselves to be betrayed into the echoing of extravagant eulogies it is because we are afraid to be deemed unappreciative of what one literary circle, which sees these things in the light of family adoration, declares to be remarkable.—Rev. Hugh F. Blunt, in February Donahoe's.

IDEAL RETREAT FOR PRIESTS

Rev. Albert Stroebele, missionary at Piloto, Cuba, sends us the following interesting information regarding a priests' retreat which he has established in Cuba, says The Catholic Universe.

On various occasions during the twenty-eight years of my priesthood, but more so during the past five years of my missionary travels in North, Central and South America, I have had opportunity of hearing the opinions of many bishops and priests regarding the establishment of a so-called "Retiro," intended in the first place for poor, old, retired missionaries; in the second place, for priests in general who might wish to retire temporarily for rest or recuperation. The universal opinion was that, as to location, a mild climate, (tropical, or at least semi-tropical) should be selected. During the years of my missionary life in South America I believed that I had found an appropriate place for the purpose in "Old Providence Island."

One great obstacle, however, was in the way to carry out the plan in Old Providence Island; it was the fact that there is no steamboat connection between the island and the outside world. I must look upon it as providential that in my missionary travels a year ago, whilst in South and Central America, I also came to Cuba, visiting the American

colonies along the northeast coast of the Island, for here I found the same and even more favorable climatic conditions than in Old Providence; an easily accessible spot, and, moreover, all the communications with the outside world one could desire. The place selected is Piloto, one of the American colonies, and only fifty miles west of the port Nuevitas. The climate is excellent. During the summer months the average temperature is from eighty to eighty-five (nights are always cool); during the winter months from sixty to seventy-five. There is nearly always constant sea breeze during the day (northeast trade winds), there being very few calm days, and usually not more than two or three in succession.

The spot selected for the Retiro is only a few hundred feet from the sea. The present building may be looked upon as a temporary one. The long side of the building (116 feet) faces the sea, and from its veranda one enjoys a magnificent view over the bay and a group of islands at a distance of five to six miles. The Munson Line (office, 82 Beaver street, New York City) has a steamer every two weeks directly from New York to Nuevitas (round trip tickets, valid for six months, \$45; servants and attendants half fare). But also steamers coming to Havana from all parts of the world facilitate a trip to Piloto, for from Havana one can reach Nuevitas either by sea in a day and a half (Herrera Line), or by railroad, via Puerto Principe. The short distance from Nuevitas to Piloto through the bay is made on a steam or gasoline launch. Hence Cuba may, in more than one respect, be considered a most appropriate place for an international Retiro, viz., for retired missionaries from all over the world.

The present building is really apostolic for its simplicity. One American priest has donated \$2000 towards the erection of the present building, and another \$2000 have been collected. It contains on the first floor the chapel, 25x35, a refectory, a reception room and six private rooms. On the second floor there is a spacious dormitory and four private rooms. On the third floor, in the tower on each side of the building, is a so-called solarium for sun and air baths. As soon as the means allow it, accommodations for sea-baths will also be made, so that the establishment may not only serve as a retreat for old priests, but also as a place for the clergy in general in case they should wish to come here for rest or recuperation. Simple as the whole building is, so is its furniture, and so also must be (at least for some time) the "table," which, of course, may all change in the course of time if the reverend clergy should take a practical interest in the institute.

In front and in the rear of the building a garden with palms and orange trees is being laid out, and the erection of a number of small cottages with two rooms is contemplated for such of the clergy who prefer to live privately rather than in the main building. The grounds of the retreat have been donated by an American gentleman (a Protestant). He also donated another piece of ground a little further back from the sea, with a grove of natural wood and a number of beautiful shady mango trees (mango is a delicious tropical fruit), where a so-called "hermitage" with two rooms and a private chapel, will be erected under the title "La Solidad," for priests who should wish to spend a few days in spiritual retreat. If, in the course of time, it should prove advisable or desirable to establish a branch building for such as need mountain air, there could be nothing better adapted for the purpose than the nearby situated "Cubita Mountains" (at a distance of twenty miles), with their unsurpassable view in every direction.

The whole property is deeded to the Reverend Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba and his successors. The dedication and opening of the Retiro took place on All Souls' Day, November 2, 1905.

(Rev.) Albert Stroebele, Missionary.

A tender heart feels keenly, but carefully refrains from making known its sorrow.

DEATH OF MGR. RAMSAY.

Another dignitary of the Catholic Church has just passed away in the person of Monsignor David Shaw Ramsay, who died suddenly on Friday evening at his residence, 139 Metcalfe street, in this city.

The deceased prelate, who was in his eighty-fifth year, appeared to be in excellent health up to only a few moments before his death. In the afternoon he visited a friend on Sherbrooke street, and walked back to his home. At about 7 p.m. he was seized with difficulty of breathing and his physician was at once summoned. Realizing that the case was serious, the doctor called in a confere, but before the latter arrived Mgr. Ramsay had expired, death being caused by apoplectic congestion of the lungs.

David Shaw Ramsay was born in Edinburgh, on April 22, 1825. He was educated by private tuition and afterwards in the University of Edinburgh. He came to Canada in 1845, and lived for some time in the village of Varennes for the purpose of acquiring a knowledge of the French language. While there, he had occasion to read the works of the famous Dominican Lacordaire, with the result that his faith in the Episcopal Church, of which he had been a member, became shaken, and in 1859 he was definitely received into the Catholic Church by the late Archbishop Fabre, then Canon Fabre. Previous to his embracing the Catholic faith, Mr. Ramsay had purchased the Seigniorship of De Ramsay where he went to live, devoting much of his time to agriculture. He also took great interest in military matters, raised a troop of cavalry, and afterwards passed some time in England taking service in a Hussar regiment. Returning to Canada he unsuccessfully contested Bagot in the Unservative interest in 1857.

After entering the Catholic Church Mr. Ramsay commenced the study of theology in Montreal. He then went to Rome, and was ordained priest in 1867. After the ordination, Abbe Ramsay took up parish work near Manchester, and again at South Shields, giving his services gratuitously, and expending all he could spare of his income upon the poor. He returned to Canada some fifteen years ago, and, after passing some time on an estate he purchased at Magog, he took up his residence at the Grey Nunnery, in the city, leaving his Magog property to Bishop Laroque, of Sherbrooke, for charitable purposes. Later on, he disposed of the de Ramsay seigniorship, and for some time past had been living on Metcalfe street with his sister, Miss W. N. Ramsay, who, although his senior by ten years, survives him.

In 1895 Abbe Ramsay was raised to the rank of a domestic prelate, and in the following year to that of prothonotary apostolic, which gave him the title of Right Reverend and entitled him to wear the purple.

Mgr. Ramsay, who was a brother of the late Judge T. K. Ramsay, was a man of great culture and very distinguished manners. He was noted for his numerous charities. He had maintained an intimate friendship with many of the body from which he had separated himself, notably the late Bishop Fulford, for whom he entertained the highest esteem and respect, feelings which were fully reciprocated.

The funeral of the deceased prelate took place on Tuesday morning at 8.45 o'clock, to St. James Cathedral. His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi received the body. Rev. John Cox, S.J., sang the funeral service. The body was deposited in the vaults beneath the Cathedral.

Among those present were: Sir William Hingston, Sir Alexander Lacombe, Sir George Drummond, Mr. Justice Loranger, Mr. Justice Dunlop, the Vicar-General of Sherbrooke, representing the Bishop of Sherbrooke; Hon. J. J. Guerin, Mr. M. Fitzgibbon, Mr. H. J. Cavandish, K.C.; Mr. Daniel Ford, Dr. Donald Hingston, Messrs. Huntley Drummond, Henry Dobell, J. Martin, Roland, J. L. Archambault, C. A. Harwood, A. La Blais, Ernest Bergais, Alfred Wright, of Magog; J. A. Heroux, John Murphy, J. W. Hickman, and a large number of the city clergy.