



**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

THE Mayor of Minneapolis has a novel and effective way of bringing the liquor element to time. It appears that a citizen of Minneapolis was swindled, in a saloon, to the extent of \$250, by a bunco steerer. The crime was committed in one of three saloons. The man was not positive in which one it took place. Mayor Eustis summoned the three saloon-keepers and informed them that if each did not pay his share of the amount they would suffer the loss of their licenses. The three saloonmen refunded the amount lost to the victim of the fraud, and went away wiser men. It is very probable that in future these saloon-keepers will keep a sharp lookout for the class of men who frequent their places, and probably will think twice before allowing gamblers, fakirs, bunco steerers and all such land-sharks to make victims of the people who go to their saloons. A few more mayors like the one in Minneapolis would be a benefit to the country.

A VERY able and historically interesting article, entitled, "The Oldest Priest in Canada," appeared in the Irish World. A well deserved tribute is paid to the virtues and life of "the Patriarch of the Ontario Priesthood," Rev. Patrick Conway, of the Peterboro' diocese. Father Conway is over sixty-six years of age and was ordained in 1854—being now forty years a priest. We join heartily with our New York contemporary in wishing Father Conway a successful and happy trip and a safe return; he intends visiting Ireland this year. We take exception, however, to the title of "oldest Priest in Canada." Father Conway is far from being the oldest—either in age, or in years of sacerdotal life. We know two in Montreal who are over ninety years of age, and have been more than fifty years ordained.

THE State of Massachusetts is in rank on the Home Rule movement. The Rev. Dr. T. J. Conaty, who is State Secretary of the Irish National Federation, has sent a cheque for \$5,000 to Dr. T. A. Emmett, of New York, as a first contribution from Massachusetts to the Blake fund for the Irish parliamentary party. Probably Salisbury will object on the ground that, if Home Rule be granted, Dr. T. A. Emmett may try to run the Irish Legislature, and Rev. Dr. Conaty take possession of England and destroy the Empire. Absurd or funny as the remark may appear, still it is but the logical conclusion that flows from the ex-Premier's arguments.

In last week's issue we stated that, in our opinion, the interpretation placed by the Gazette on Lord Rosebery's remarks regarding Home Rule was neither fair to the Premier or to the Irish cause. Not two days later Lord Rosebery addressed a Liberal meeting, in Manchester, and there gave expression to ideas and sentiments that exactly correspond with those

we attributed to him. He said that, "as agrarian crime in Ireland had almost died out and there was no longer any fear of the Catholics combining against the Protestants, the conviction in favor of Home Rule must soon be carried to the hearts of the English people. The question ought to be and must be settled as a measure of common sense. If the people of England were to have a united Empire and wished to move toward the ideal of a federation of the English-speaking races, they must grant Home Rule." That is almost a word for word statement of the meaning we attributed to his words in our last issue. But Salisbury's "Irish-American" bugaboo is more in harmony with the desires and sentiments of a certain element.

THE Church Times, according to the Liverpool Catholic Times, has a pretty strange idea regarding the "Communion of Saints." It says: "We know far too little of the condition of the spirit world to be able to say whether the saints are or are not conscious of petitions addressed to them." And on the basis of that ignorance the writer in the Church Times concludes that it is wrong to invoke the saints. If he knows too little about them why does he not take means to learn something on the subject? Or else, why does he not accept the opinions of men who do know enough about the saints to be certain that they hear our petitions? He is very silly, to say the least. We know too little about electricity to understand its application, but we believe Edison, who does understand it.

LAST WEEK we had occasion to refer to the evidence of our splendid Banking system being a success, and pointed out the fact of the satisfactory results of the last half year's operations in several of our city banks. In this issue we give the report of the annual meeting of the shareholders of the City and District Savings Bank. This is one of the most solid and flourishing institutions in Montreal. During the past year some fifty-nine millions of dollars have passed through the Bank, in one way or another, and marvellous to say, in all the transactions, the enterprises, the investments, the operations that such an amount represents, not one cent of loss was sustained. This speaks volumes for the institution, for the Board of Directors, and for the Manager, Mr. Henri Barbeau. In fact, that gentleman deserves the most unlimited praise for the energy, ability and financial acumen which his management of the vast institution under his care evidences. We may state that all our monetary institutions on whose stock the bank lends are equally substantial. Not only the bank, and all directly interested in its operations, may be said to benefit by Mr. Barbeau's success, but even the whole commercial community and the country at large must feel the effects of the stability thus imparted to one of the leading monetary establishments of the Domi-

nion. A sense of security reigns, when the financial institutions command universal confidence, even as contentment exists and apprehensions disappear when, in a military guarded country, the commanders of the different forts and detachments are men whose ability and devotedness are recognized by all. It is well that our public organs should, from time to time, give expression to the community's appreciation of the men who stand in the financial breach and sentinel the Dominion's commercial interests.

THE NEW YORK WORLD gives the following table of Catholic Church statistics. In view of the present anti-Catholic movements, it will prove of considerable interest:

"Compared with the statistics of 1892, the increase in the Catholic population is 95,988; priests, 329; churches, 252; chapels and stations, 455; seminaries, 251; parochial schools, 145. A Catholic statistician has made an investigation, which shows that in 1776 the Catholic population of the colonies was 25,000 in a total population of 3,000,000, or 1-120 of the whole. There were in 1790 30,000 Catholics, or 1-107 of the whole population; in 1800, 100,000, or 1-53; in 1810, 150,000, or 1-48; in 1820, 300,000, or 1-32; in 1830, 600,000, or 1-21; in 1840, 1,500,000, or 1-11; in 1850, 3,500,000, or 1-7; in 1860, 4,500,000, or 1-7; in 1878, 7,000,000, or 1-6. The official census in 1890 of the United States shows the entire population to have been 62,885,548, while the Catholic population was estimated at 12,000,000."

In presence of these figures, it is no wonder that the spasmodic outbursts of A. P. Aism and similar "isms" should take place. Frantic efforts to check the rising tide of Catholicity; but efforts as useless as those of the geese who cackle at the summer hurricane.

WE would prefer not to believe it, but the evidence is there—a society of men exists for the purpose of demon-worship. The Luciferians they are called. The sacrileges attributed to them are so horrid that one can scarcely be brought to record them. Amongst others they steal Sacred Hosts and offer them to the Devil, in a ceremony of mock Masses. The only consolation in all this is the fact that their demoniac conduct proves their belief in the Real Presence. Yet that seems scarcely a consolation when we calculate the enormity of the crimes that they commit against God, whom they hate. It would be well if the law of the land could reach those fiends and crush them.

THERE is war between "La Croix" and His Honor Judge Routhier. It appears that the new Catholic organ attacked the Judge, and when His Honor returned the paper the attacks were renewed. We know little about the quarrel, nor are we at all interested in knowing the source thereof; but we do know that La Croix is a recent arrival, that it claims to have a special mission to defend the Church and fight the battles of the clergy. If such be its mission we wish it all manner of success; but we

trust that its zeal will not strangle its common sense, nor destroy its sense of justice. In the present case it appears to us that La Croix would have given a stronger evidence of its Catholic spirit were it to have taken into consideration that Judge Routhier—who is one of the finest, the most delicate, the most charming *litterateurs* in Canada—has, for over quarter of a century, fought the battles of the Church and of the clergy. And with all due respect to La Croix, he has been the exponent of Catholic sentiment and Catholic ideas in a style so polished, so magnetic, so powerful, that not in fifty years could the editor of La Croix equal or approach it. We don't believe in the Catholic organ that uses its columns to vent a spleen upon the head of a man who has, by his writings, his lectures, his studies, his high and responsible position, and by the example of his private life, done the work of a true apostle of Catholicity. A little less zeal and more humility would accord better with La Croix's title.

SIR CHARLES RUSSELL's elevation to a seat on the highest Court in England is something that all sincere men should consider a giant step in the right direction. The honor was conferred upon him in recognition of his towering ability as a lawyer more than on account of his political services. It is a sign of the times when an Irish-Catholic patriot and active politician is given a place amongst the Lords of the High Court of Appeal. What would O'Connell think, were he alive, to find a man of his creed and nationality scaling the ladder of success and touching its topmost round in presence of the British Empire? Lord Justice Russell comes of a family that gave many talented and distinguished members to society. His uncle, the Very Rev. Dr. Russell, was once President of Maynooth College; his brother, Rev. Matthew Russell, S.J., was editor of the Irish Monthly. His wife is a sister of Mrs. J. T. Gilder (Rosa) and of Clara Mulholland. The day of disabilities is fast declining. A new spirit is coming into the land; and we welcome it with joy, while congratulating the most eminent example of its effective operation.

ON THE question of the repatriation of Canadians the *Minerve* gives a list of families registered in the different customs offices of Quebec as having returned from the United States during the past twelve months. The following are the figures: St. Johns and Iberville, 454; Three Rivers, 540; St. Hyacinthe, 667; Quebec, 819; Frelighsburg, 23; Sorel, 96; Lacolle, 65; Stanstead, 86; Clarenceville, 8; Sherbrooke, 788; Rimouski, 253; Coaticook, 97; Hemmingford, 26; Potten, 20; Sutton, 471; Montreal, by C. P. R., 874; Montreal, by C. P. R., 3,003; in other offices, 120. This gives a total of 8,400, and placing the average number of persons in each family at five, we get a grand total of 42,000 individuals.

At that rate the exodus would require to be very great in order to support the contentions of those gentlemen who sing the pessimistic chant of Canada's doom,