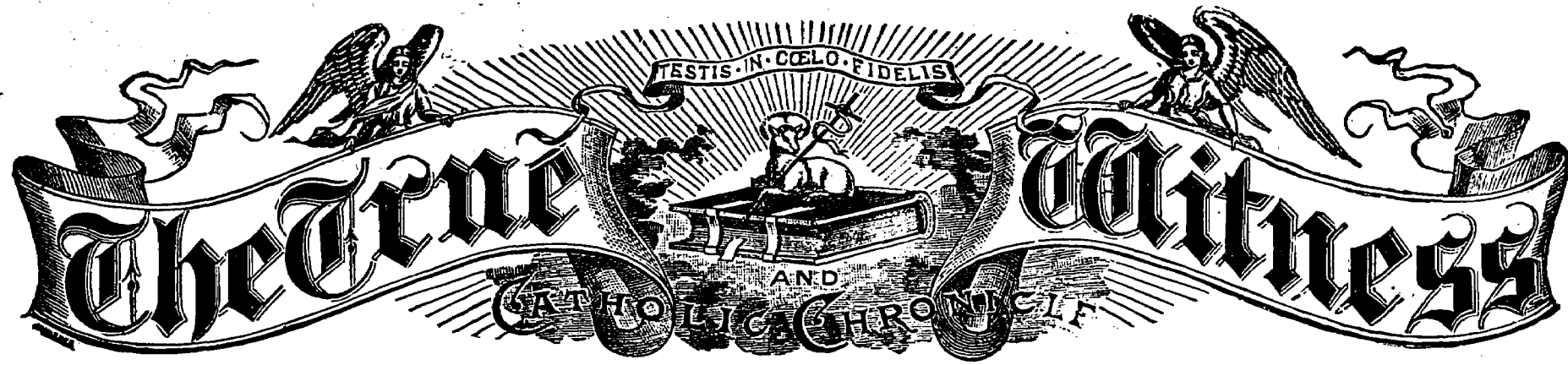


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C. Y. M. S. LITERARY CONFERENCE

LECTURE BY REV. JAS. CALLAGHAN

The weekly conference of the Irish Catholic Young Men's Literary Academy was held in their hall, 92 St. Alexander street, Wednesday, April 29, under the presidency of Mr. J. J. Patterson, B.L. The programme was varied and select and the criticisms of the literary productions most favorably received.

St. Jerome was born at Stridon, in Dalmatia, in the ancient Republic of Venice, A.D. 342, and studied in Rome. In his youth he yielded to the gross instincts of nature, and, being converted from his evil habits, he devoted himself to a life of intellectual and moral improvement.

After the death of Pope Damasus, he quitted once more the capital of Christendom and repaired to the stable of Bethlehem, A.D. 384. He spent thirty-six years in study and penance in the humble grotto where his Divine Master was born of the Virgin. After he had been over thirty years in his peaceful retirement, his intellectual pursuits and his penitential exercises were interrupted by the landing of Pelagius in Judea.

His vigorous protest incited the Sectarians to open revolt. They laid siege to his cell and his two neig' boring monasteries. A deacon and a few servants lost their lives in the combat. Jerome and the others were saved only by getting into a tower.

The execution of the herculean task was exceedingly tardy and painstaking. It took him 42 years to complete it and necessitated the acquisition of much additional knowledge. His proficiency in modern Hebrew availed him only partially, for the purity of the ancient dialect was notably impaired by the introduction of many Chaldaic idioms while the Jews were captives at Babylon.

At the conclusion, a vote of thanks was unanimously voted in favor of the Rev. lecturer. His subject this evening will be "St. John Chrysostom, or the Golden-Tongued Orator."

REPORTED DISCOVERY

OF THE RUINS OF A HOUSE INHABITED BY THE BLESSED VIRGIN.

The Pope and the Cardinals are much interested, according to the Journal Italic, in a discovery made by Father Esbasch, Superior of the French Seminary in Rome, during his recent journey in the East, with the assistance of Father Paulinus, Superior of the Lazarist community at Smyrna.

man nun, whose visions of the various scenes of Christ's Passion have been published in most European languages. Fathers Esbasch and Paulinus found that the site indicated by Anne Catherine, of Emmerich, is known to the peasants as Panaghia Caperili, signifying the place of the Virgin, and that the locality exactly corresponds with the description given in the nun's books.

THE A. P. A. ARCHBISHOP IRELAND'S OPINION OF THE ORGANIZATION.

Archbishop Ireland, in a recent interview which appeared in several American newspapers, speaks of the A. P. A. in the following terms:—"Well, I have heard a good deal about them, but I have seen very little of them. They are not numerous in America, and where they are found they are usually imported Americans. They croak a good deal, to make believe they are numerous. Two or three frogs in a swamp may keep a whole household from sleep. The chief reason of the secrecy they attach to their meetings and their membership is that they must hide their fiveness of numbers. Why, if they counted votes by millions, as their spokesmen say, do they not come out and support a regular A. P. A. ticket? This they will never dare do.

"Their usual plan of campaign is to hitch themselves to the tail of a party or of a man whom they think likely to win, and afterward claim the victory as their own. I have known several cases in the West where politicians affixed the stigma of A. P. A.ism on tickets which they wished to defeat, and to which it did not at all belong. A good deal of intriguing goes on under cover of this shibboleth."

MGR. FABRE'S ANNIVERSARY.

Religious services were held on Friday at the Cathedral on the occasion of the twenty-third anniversary of the episcopal consecration of Mgr. Fabre, Archbishop of Montreal. His Grace officiated at the service, assisted by Rev. M. Bourgeault, Grand Vicar, as assistant priest, and Canons Martin and Cousineau, as deacon and sub-deacon. Mgr. Langevin, Archbishop of St. Boniface; Mgr. Gravel, of Nicolet; Mgr. Larocque, of Sherbrooke; Mgr. Decelles, of St. Hyacinthe, and a large number of the clergy, were present. The choir sang the same Mass that was sung at the consecration of Mgr. Fabre twenty-three years ago by Cardinal Taschereau. Mgr. Fabre has himself consecrated the six following Bishops:—Mgr. O'Brien, Archbishop of Halifax; Mgr. L'Or, Apostolic Vicar of Pembroke; Mgr. Emard, of Valleyfield; Mgr. Decelles, of St. Hyacinthe, and Mgr. Langevin, of St. Boniface. His Grace has received a great number of presents from the different religious orders of the archdiocese.

CATHOLIC SAILORS' CLUB.

The Catholic Sailors' Club will hold their first concert of the season, in their new rooms, 53 Common street, corner of St. Peter street, on Thursday evening, May 7th. A splendid programme will be presented. In the new quarters a spacious hall is set apart for the concerts. Social entertainments will be given every Thursday evening during the season of navigation, to which the public are invited. Some good local talent will assist at the opening concert to-morrow evening. Come.

ST URBAIN'S ACADEMY.

Rev. James Callaghan, of St. Patrick's parish, and chaplain of St. Urbain's Academy, paid a visit to the Academy on the occasion of the anniversary of St. James the less. A pleasing programme, composed of literary compositions, classical dialogues, songs, etc., was executed by the pupils. To the addresses of welcome read by Misses Dwyane and Desjardins, the reverend gentleman made a suitable reply, complimenting teachers and scholars on the high standard attained.

DEATH OF A CATHOLIC PUBLISHER.

Louis Benziger of the firm of Benziger Bros., publishers of Catholic books, died recently after a short illness. Heart failure induced by pneumonia was the cause of his death. Mr. Benziger was born in Einsiedeln, Switzerland, fifty six years ago. His father and grandfather had been in the publishing business in their native town for many years, the business having been started in 1798 with the aid of several presses which the Benzigers bought of the monks in a neighboring monastery. The American branch was founded in 1853 and in 1860 Louis Benziger came to this country to share the management of the concern. Mr. Benziger went to Cincinnati and started a branch house there, after which he returned to New York and in 1878 became the senior manager of the American firm. The funeral was held in St. Peter's Catholic Church at New Brighton, L. I.

JOHN DILLON AN AMERICAN.

It may not be generally known, says the Buffalo Union and Times, that John Dillon, the recently elected leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, was born in New York during the temporary exile of his father, John Dillon, in that city. But such is the case. The younger son,

however, was not destined to spend many of his years in the new world just then, for with the return of his parents to Ireland young John, for the first time, gazed upon the land to whose national redemption his life was to be largely devoted.

BULUWAYO RELIEVED.

EARL GREY REACHES THERE WITH A STRONG FORCE OF MEN.

Earl Grey, co-administrator, with Mr. Cecil Rhodes, of the territory of the British Chartered South Africa Company, has arrived at Buluwayo with a strong escort. The recent actions with the insurgent Matabeles have resulted in inflicting such severe loss upon them that Buluwayo is looked upon as being practically relieved, and it is no longer likely that the natives will attack the town in force, although they still number over 15,000 armed men in this vicinity.

OVER 300 DROWNED.

THE RESULT OF A COLLISION BETWEEN CHINESE STEAMERS.

A report comes from Shanghai that the steamer On Wo has been sunk by coming into collision with the steamer New Chwang, off Woo Sang, ten miles north of Shanghai. The On Wo went down immediately, and the New Chwang was beached to prevent her from sinking. Five foreigners and 300 Chinese who were on board the On Wo are missing. The European survivors of the sunken vessel are Second officer Cooper and Third Engineer Allen. The drowned include the captain and five British officers and 300 Chinese. The United States warships Olympia, Boston, Yorktown and Detroit sent boats to the assistance of the On Wo and saved many lives.

PERSIA'S SHAH DEAD.

WAS SHOT WHILE GOING TO HIS DEVOTIONS BY A FANATIC.

The Central News says that the details that have reached London of the assassination of the Shah are of the briefest character. As the Shah was entering the court of the shrine of Shah Abdul Azim, the assassin, who is said to be a Sayid from Kerman, named Mollah Reza, delivered the fatal shot. The Shah was attended by his chief physician, Dr. Tholusan, and other physicians. The assassination caused much alarm. Prince Nalb-Es-Saltaneh, third son of the Shah, retired to his palace at the request of the Government. The heir to the throne, Mousaffer-Eld-Dine, is at Tabriz. He will leave for the capital as soon as possible. A possible reason for the crime is that there has been much discontent for some time owing to the dearth of provisions, partly caused by the excessive issue of copper coins.

Secretary Olney received the following cable message from United States Minister Alex. McDonald at Teheran:—

TEHRAN, Persia, May 1.

Olney, Secretary of State, Washington:—Shah visiting shrine near city to-day for devotion, entering inner sanctuary was shot by an assassin disguised as a woman, bullet entering region of the head. Expired in a few minutes. Regicide revolutionary fanatic. Great distress, but city quiet.

Nasr Ed-Dine, the assassinated monarch, was born July 17, 1831. He was the son and successor of Moulhammed, and succeeded to the throne on Sept. 10th, 1848. Just after the Commune of Paris, Nasr Ed-Dine made a tour of Europe, and the educational advantages derived from his travel resulted in the institution of a more liberal administration of the Government on his return to Persia. The new Shah is Mousaffer Ed-Dine.

PEASANT LIFE IN IRELAND.

Professor A. C. Haddon, in a lecture on "Peasant Life and Industries of Ireland," said that lumbering continued to be practiced in some parts of Ireland, and, when trained, the Irish women were very expert in all kinds of needlework. The work of the men consisted chiefly of agriculture, turf cutting, fishing and kelp burning. There was very little good soil in the west, and in some places, as in the Arran Islands, the soil had actually to be made by bringing up sand and seaweed from the shore and strewing them on the bare rocks. The great extent of the bog land enabled the people on the mainland to get plenty of fuel. Fishing in Ireland was essentially men's work, and there was an abundance of fish off the coast. Speaking generally, the population of the west coast of Ireland did not produce good fishermen.

With regard to the means of transport, on which the commercial prosperity of a country depended, he remarked that until comparatively recently there were no true roads in many parts of the west of Ireland and consequently no wheeled vehicles. One of the blessings wrested from the awful famine period was the building of roads, and during later years the wise policy had been continued. It was to be hoped that the light railways of the present day or other means of conveyance, such as auto cars, would give yet greater impetus to nascent local industries and thus materially assist toward improving the condition of our charming fellow countrymen in Ireland.—London Times.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

The real obstacle in the way of international arbitration is not so much a lack of efficacy in the method as the lack of disposition to try it. The sys-

tem of arbitration necessarily presupposes that nations desire an amicable adjustment of their differences. Such an adjustment may be prevented either by a willful opposition to it or by the adoption of a style of controversy that will render argument impracticable. Against such obstacles it is difficult to contend, since their direct tendency and effect is to bring about a collision before an arbitrator can intervene. It is obvious that arbitration can no more afford an absolute safeguard against such contingencies than can a system of municipal law absolutely prevent men from attempting to settle their differences by fighting in the street, if they desire thus to revert to primal conditions. Yet severe penalties, strictly enforced, may reduce such chances to a minimum, and it is conceivable that a scheme of international action might be devised so comprehensive as to render a resort to war exceedingly difficult and hazardous.—"The Possibilities of Permanent Arbitration" in Century.

THE MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

Opinions of our Contemporaries.

In the course of a lengthy and able review of the Manitoba School Bill, The Tablet of last week says:—"The grounds on which the Opposition justify their hostility to the Bill do not, on the other hand, admit of so clear and definite a statement, as they rest on a casuistical defence of acknowledged wrong on the plea of expediency. Pledged, as a party, to the defence of provincial independence against Federal intervention, they acknowledge the necessity of redressing the grievances of the Catholics of Manitoba, but object to the means employed for the purpose as a blow to the autonomy of the province. Since they have formulated no alternative measure, their policy therefore amounts to the sacrifice of the oppressed minority to their convictions as political partisans. State rights, which in this case mean the right of local tyranny, are, in their opinion, no less sacred than those of a minority, and indeed, it would seem, a great deal more so, since they are prepared to throw over the latter in favour of the former. In order, however, to bring their position into harmony with the state of the law, they should propose the repeal of the existing constitution, which expressly guarantees the very rights which they, it appears, are prepared illegally to abolish or ignore. These form part of a solemn compact entered into by Manitoba and the central Government, and any policy which rests on their abrogation is of its essence unconstitutional and revolutionary. To omit to call it to action the clause of the Constitution designed for the protection of the minority is practically to suspend or violate it. These are the practices of a despotism not of a free government, and the means taken to secure their triumph, by the degradation of Parliament, are worthy of the cause in which they are made use of.

The Remedial Order issued by the Governor in Council, in consequence of the continued obduracy of Manitoba, was accompanied by an intimation that any reasonable offer of settlement would be accepted. It was only on the absolute refusal of the Provincial Government to introduce the legislation required to repair the violation of the constitutional rights of the Catholic party that the Remedial Bill was introduced into the Dominion Parliament, and even during its discussion concurrent attempts were made to arrive at an amicable settlement of the dispute. A Commission was sent to Winnipeg to negotiate with the Premier of Manitoba, just before the second reading of the Bill, with the understanding that the latter was to be dropped if any satisfactory alternative were proposed. The conflict averted was thus absolutely forced on the Federal Government by the failure of all attempts to arrange a compromise, as the passive acceptance of defeat would have implied abdication of all the powers entrusted to it for the protection of those ground down by local majorities.

One of the arguments on which most stress was laid by the Opposition in the course of the debate was that the Bill was an invasion of Provincial freedom of taxation, since some appropriation of money will necessarily be required in order to carry out its provisions. The contention is more specious than convincing, since no attempt is made to prescribe the amount of the school rate or the manner in which it is levied, but only the proportion in which it is to be distributed. The Government are, nevertheless, sure to lose many votes on this count among a people jealous of their local liberties and resentful of even the appearance of their curtailment. The constitutional aspect of the question divides parties by a line of cross cleavage, running at right angles to that of their religious classification. For it is the Catholic and Liberal section which, in its championship of provincial versus federal rights, is now opposing the concession of the demands of the Catholics of Manitoba, which the Conservative and Protestant Government, as the defender of centralized authority, is bent on conceding. Thus, in the division religious conviction in some cases proved too strong for party allegiance, and a fraction of the Protestant following of the Government voted against them, while a handful of Mr. Laurier's French Catholic supporters went into the lobby behind them. These considerations will equally complicate the issue at the forthcoming general election, and render it difficult to fore-

cast its results, as it is impossible to estimate before hand to what extent the cross currents of religious opinion will prevail on either side over the normal flood-tide of political passion. The cause of the Catholics of Manitoba has been much weakened by the desertion of their co-religionists in the other provinces, as the opposition to their claims by the latter is used as an argument against their justice. It is to be hoped, however, that the Catholic population at large may not endorse the action of their political leaders in regard to them, and that they will go to the poll for candidates who will on this occasion be the champions of religious freedom, whatever may have been the colors under which they have fought in the past. The coming election will be decisive as regards the settlement of the pending question for at least a decade, and religious considerations should be supreme in a matter which involves the Christian training of the rising generation.

THE CATHOLIC REGISTER.

This is not for us a question of mere politics, it is one of conscience and religion. The cry about "the coercion of Manitoba" is the tale of the wolf and the lamb enacted in actual facts in the case before us. The majority of the Manitobans began the work of the coercion of the Catholic minority, invaded their educational rights, and steadily refuse to remove their grievances. Therein lies the real coercion, and the advocates of this condition of things are the real coercionists.

"TOILERS OF THE SEA."

REMEMBER OUR CATHOLIC SAILORS!

Now that the re-opening of navigation has again brought ships and steamers from abroad into our northern waters and with them the crowds of seamen who annually visit our ports, it is incumbent on us Catholics of Montreal—the commercial capital of the Dominion—to renew our efforts in furtherance of the great work, a ready so well begun, for the reception of the thousands of our own co-religionists who form the vast majority of those dear "toilers of the sea."

The ladies of the committee of the Catholic Sailors' Club earnestly request the Catholic families of the city who may have periodicals or newspapers, accumulated during winter, to send them to our new quarters, the old North west building, corner of St. Peter and Common streets, with as little delay as may be, seeing that the seamen are now arriving in numbers every day.

This is a very important part of the work, as it enables a package of Catholic pamphlets, papers and magazines to be given to the men of every outgoing vessel for reading during the voyage. And to be borne in mind that this is kept up all summer and during the early autumn as well.

Games of any kind will be most thankfully received, as the supply in hand is scarcely up to the demand. Books, too, that may be deemed suitable for the standing library—very small indeed, as yet—will be a great boon for the seaman who napsily goes to spend their leisure hours in the rooms, where a special reading room now awaits those who are studiously inclined.

Remember, then, Catholic ladies and gentlemen of Montreal, that donations of books, periodicals, pamphlets and newspapers—especially if they are Catholic—are earnestly requested for the Catholic Sailors' Club at the above address, and will be gratefully received by the chairman of the rooms for the Ladies of the Committee.

M. A. S.

N. B.—The Catholic Sailors' first weekly concert takes place on Thursday evening next, the 7th inst., at their own Rooms.

FORTIFICATIONS AT ESQUIMAULT.

In conversation with a British army officer, a Halifax reporter was informed that the strengthening and equipping of the military and naval station at Esquimault, B.C., was proceeding in a very quiet way and had been going on for a long time very quietly. He said it would be a surprising fact to know that this was now one of the most powerful and important naval stations in any part of the British Empire. Vast quantities of ammunition and war material of all kinds have been accumulated there in small shipments at a time. The fortifications were very extensive and as impregnable as time, patience and science could make them. The expenditure on this station was tremendous and it was evidently the intention of the War Department and Admiralty to make this place the stronghold of the Pacific. The officer said it was not generally known, but it was true, nevertheless, that there was a very large number of engineers at Esquimault, the works and fortifications of which would surprise the world when some idea of their extent and importance became known.

SALISBURY NOT RETIRING.

The Pall Mall Gazette claims that it has authority to deny the prevalent rumors that Lord Salisbury is about to retire from the foreign office owing to failing health. He was never in better health, the paper says, and never more eager for work.

BENEVOLENCE.—Sidney Smith once commenced a charity sermon by saying: "Benevolence is a sentiment common to human nature. A never see him in distress without asking God to relieve him!"

OUR LADY'S MONTH.

[BY LIONEL BYRNE, IN THE "AVE MARIA"]

Not for thy grace alone, fair Month of old
Not for the jowled buds that "neath thy sway
Their tiny petals stir, then swift unfold
Their wealth of beauty to bedeck the mold
And woo the wanton winds that to mid them play;
Not for thy sunny mien or curls gay,
We bid thee hail and welcome manifold.
But chiefly that thou art Our Lady's time,
Her calm month of homage, praise,
and prayer,
When overland soul-harps sing in every clime
Faint hymns of love to Heaven's Queen
all fair,
The May-Day rites of yore are buried deep,
Three decades now of Mary's days we keep.

A FAVOR OF OUR QUEEN.

The following striking instance of our Blessed Lady's care for those who invoke her aid is recorded by a zeal as Polish priest, who ministers to the spiritual needs of a portion of his unfortunate fellow-countrymen who are exiles in Eastern Siberia:

"Whilst on a recent tour of visitation among the villages of my extensive parish, I stopped at a small hamlet, where I was cordially welcomed and hospitably entertained at the house of a family exiled in 1865 by the Russian Government. Before their banishment they resided at Grodno and were in easy circumstances. The father has now been dead some years; the management of a farm in the vicinity of the village, on the produce of which the family mainly depend for their means of subsistence, is carried on by his sons. One room in their house is set apart to serve as a chapel, and it is here that the priest says Mass whenever he passes that way. Far removed as they are from any church or chapel, and able only at long intervals to approach the Sacraments, these people are all exemplary Catholics. The mother especially is an excellent woman, and Heaven seems to reward her piety by extending over her household a special protection.

"Whilst I was there I was told that not long ago, at the time when their corn was ready to be cut, the sky suddenly became overcast, and it was only too apparent that a heavy thunder storm was approaching. Alarmed at the ominous sights and sounds, the eldest son hastily entered the room where his mother was sitting and exclaimed: 'Mother, there is going to be a terrible storm! Our crops will be destroyed,—we shall be ruined!' The mother rose and looked out of the window; she saw that her son's fears were indeed well founded. In fact, rain, mingled with hailstones, was already beginning to fall. Turning to her children, she said, with unaltered composure: 'My children, we can do nothing to avert this catastrophe. If Almighty God is pleased to take from us what He has given us, may His holy will be done!' She then ordered the shutters to be closed; and, after lighting the blessed tapers before the images in her little oratory, she called together all the members of the household, and, kneeling down, recited with them the Litany of Loreto. This ended they sang some hymns in praise of the Blessed Virgin. Meanwhile large hailstones were pattering upon the roof and beating violently against the shutters; and when their prayers being concluded, they once more looked over the fields in the near vicinity, they bore the appearance of a sheet of ice.

"As soon as the storm had sufficiently abated, the eldest son mounted his horse and rode out to the farm to ascertain the extent of the damage that had been done. To his astonishment, he found that his crops had not sustained the slightest injury; whereas the surrounding lands were in a most pitiable condition, whole acres of beautiful corn having been beaten down and entirely spoiled by the violence of the wind and rain.

"Which is it easier to believe: that our Blessed Mother heard the prayers of the widow and her sons, or that the hail-storm, which wrought destruction all about them, by mere chance stopped short the moment it reached their fields?"

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The following is a skeleton programme of the work to be done at the third annual meeting and conference of the National Council of Women of Canada. On the evening of May 11th, the Council opens a reception in the Windsor Hall, given by their Excellencies the Governor-General and Countess of Aberdeen. Morning meetings throughout the week will be devoted to the reception of Council reports and the discussion of important resolutions of public interest. All are invited to attend. "Patriotism," "Immigration of Women," "Athleticism among Women and Girls," "Need of Charity Organization Methods," and many other subjects will be read at the afternoon meetings, to all of which the public are heartily invited.

The evening meetings will be of a more general character. Among those to appear on the platform are the following:—Sir Alexander Leconte, Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, Dr. Louis Frechette, Judge Jette, Madame Dandurand, Mrs. Foster Avery and Mrs. Dunlop Hopkins.