

The True Witness



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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

"If the English-speaking Catholics in Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they would soon make of the 'True Witness' one of the most progressive and powerful Catholic papers in the country. I heartily bless those who encourage this excellent work." — PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

ATTACKING NON-CATHOLICS.—A correspondent of the "Monitor" asks: "What is the use of the Catholic press forever pitching into Protestants?" That organ makes a lengthy reply that is well worth reproduction. From it we take this extract:

"This is not a new query, by any means, though it is always a very mistaken one. The Catholic press does not 'pitch into' Protestants. There would certainly be no use doing so even if Christian charity and good manners did not forbid it. What the Catholic press does 'pitch into' are the errors of Protestantism and Protestant calumination of Catholic teachings and practices. There are enough of these to keep the Catholic press busy twenty-four hours a day every day in the year without going into futile personalities. Our correspondent, like a good many others, confounds criticism of a system with abuse of its adherents. They are two widely different things."

We recall several times having written upon this subject. It has ever been our contention that a distinction must be made between the error and the one in error. You cannot condemn the former too strongly, nor can you be too charitable towards the latter. Many Protestants are in error through no fault of their own. They were born of parents that knew nothing of Catholicity, were brought up in an atmosphere impregnated with anti-Catholic ideas and were surrounded all their lives by influences of a character to prevent them from being able to learn the truth about our Church. You could not honestly condemn, nor even blame them; yet you could not in conscience recognize their errors, nor do aught other than expose and censure them.

Possibly in Canada there never has been any organ that fought more steadily against the errors of Protestantism, or resented more consistently the attacks made upon the Church than the "True Witness," and yet, as far as our memory will allow, we cannot recall a single line that ever appeared in these columns that could be twisted into an attack on Protestants. We have exposed the false reasoning of individuals, but we were always ready to give them the benefit of their good intentions and honesty. Only when men who knew better, and who for sordid reasons abandoned the Church and for equally ignominious reasons abused, belied and slandered her, have we ever spoken personally and in a critical manner about Protestants. And Protestants themselves have agreed with us as to the character of such persons. "In all things charity" is a maxim that is not only taught but faithfully practised in the Catholic Church.

OUR ARCHBISHOP.—Seven years ago last Monday His Grace Archbishop Beuchet was consecrated, and six years ago he received the pallium. On Monday, at nine o'clock, His Grace celebrated High Mass in the Cathedral to commemorate that event, so important in his life and in the life of the Church in Canada. A large number of the clergy of the diocese attended that Pontifical Mass. After the celebration in the Cathedral, all the members of the clergy dined with their Archbishop. We, as the mouthpiece of the English-speaking Catholic element in this diocese, wish to unite our congratulations with all those who have given expression to theirs, and we wish, while paying our obedient homage to the chief pastor of our diocese, to register a fervent prayer that God may

great him health, strength and long years of life to preside over the destinies of this important section of the Church and to carry on to a successful issue the works of his predecessors as well as those initiated by himself.

HONORING MARY.—Last week we referred to the statue in honor of the Immaculate Conception, erected in Vienna in the seventeenth century. To show how deep-rooted and wide-spread is the veneration for the Mother of God, in the great cities of the Old World, we have the account of a celebration recently in Turin, with extraordinary rejoicings, shared by the whole of Piedmont. It was the centenary of the Madonna della Consolata, one of the most revered shrines in Turin. All classes united in the demonstration of popular devotion, and the gathering was on a vast scale. Although a conspiracy of silence suppressed all mention of it in the press. The Pope sent a representative, and nothing was wanted to give éclat to the occasion. The present Church, which is one of the principal buildings of the city, was formed by the union of three other churches, and was erected by Guarenti in 1679. It contains, in one of its chapels, kneeling statues of two Queens,—Maria Theresa, the mother, and Maria Adelaide, the wife of Victor Emmanuel, who both died in 1855. The campanile belonged to the convent of Santa Andrea, dating from the ninth century. The column of the Madonna in the adjoining square, erected in 1835, commemorates the cessation of an epidemic of cholera ascribed to the intercession of the Blessed Mother.

IRELAND'S EMIGRATION.—There has been considerable effort made within the past year or so to check the tide of emigration from Ireland. It has been even rumored that a decrease was noticeable in the number of families leaving the "Old Land" to seek homes in other countries. However, we cannot see that this is correct. We admit that conditions have greatly ameliorated in Ireland, but there is always a great void caused by the constantly postponing of the Home Rule question. During the month of July, 1904, we find that the emigrants numbered 3289 as compared to 2755 during July, 1903. This is an increase of five hundred and thirty-four in one month, and that the principal month of the year for emigration.

THE UPPER CLASSES.—Lord Hugh Cecil has started a mission in London for the benefit of the children of the upper classes. What could be the purpose of such a mission? One would imagine that the children of the wealthy and titled enjoyed all the advantages obtainable, without it being necessary to set up a mission for their benefit. Yet Lord Hugh Cecil stated, at a meeting held in Church House, Westminster, that it was a well known fact that the children of the upper classes had little or no Bible knowledge. He said it was necessary to Christianize them, or rather their system of education. They learned everything except religion. This is a sad result of the much-boasted Reformation. For three hundred years England has been Protestant; for three centuries she has discarded the true Church and accepted and taught religion by means of the Bible alone. And now the wealthy, the titled, the aristocratic class is raising up a generation of sons and daughters who know nothing at all of religion, and who

even ignore the very Bible on which their so-called Reformation is based.

IN FRANCE.—Count Boni de Castellane has written a letter to the Prime Minister regarding the Government's latest conflict with the Vatican. He accuses Combes of neglecting to reveal his intentions prior to the rising of Parliament. He warns the Premier of the crushing responsibility should the relations between the Church and State undergo modification during the absence of the national representatives. He concludes by stating that when the Chamber of Deputies meets again he will interpellate the Government regarding its policy towards the Vatican. To the one unacquainted with Parliamentary practice especially as it obtains in France, this warning may not appear to have much significance; but in that country the Ministry, or rather the Prime Minister, dreads nothing as much as an interpellation of this character. He is not always able to reply openly, or to the satisfaction of the public. And it is more upon these interpellations that he is judged that upon his expressed policy. The latter he can clothe in any ambiguous language he desires; but the former is a direct question, containing the kernel of the issue, and it demands either a clear and direct answer or else a confession of weakness or admission of error. At all events, such a warning, upon such a very important constitutional issue, is just what Combes would wish to avoid, and which he cannot prevent from going to the country. No doubt if France only knew all the unconstitutional elements in the course of the Prime Minister there would be a positive rebellion against his tyranny. The Count's warning may be "the writing on the wall" for Combes.

A REAL MURILLO.—There is a very historical painting, one certainly from the brush of Murillo, in Baltimore at present. This week one of our contributors refers to caricatures of monks, and we would call his attention to the manner in which the old masters, the great ones in the realm of art, treated such subjects. This is a picture of a monk holding a crucifix. In the foreground may be seen a manuscript and a wreath of olive entwining a skull, and these articles are the invariable accompaniments of portrayals of St. Francis. In the lower left hand corner of the canvas may be traced the letters "MURI," which experts who have examined the picture declare were put there by Murillo as part of his signature. The picture has quite a romantic history. It had been stolen from a monastery in the Philippine Islands by some sailors, who presented it to an officer of the United States navy. Considering its great age, the canvas is in good condition. It is said that the owners of the painting have refused an offer of sixty-five thousand dollars for it.

THE TWO MELLARYS.—No monastery has been more prosperous and has done more in its line than the famous Trappist monastery of Mount Mellary in Ireland. Its history is that of the South of Ireland for long generations. It has been the shrine of pilgrimages for hundreds of thousands. Among those whose names are on its books as visitors are Daniel O'Connell, Father Matthew, Thomas Francis Meagher, Rev. Dr. Cahill, Michael Doherty, John O'Mahony and scores of others whose names belong to Irish history. From that same community went forth the monks who founded the monastery of New Mellary, near Dubuque, in the United States. Strange to say, we learn that the New Mellary is threatened with destruction unless the Order there can get recruits from Ireland. To-day the monks number only thirty-five, and their number grows yearly less. In twenty years only one member was added to the Order from the vicinity, the number of monks in the cemetery is greater than that of those in the cloister. They say that only two courses are open to them—either to dispose of a part of their farm, or else to secure additions to their Order from the Old Country. They have fourteen hundred acres under cultivation, but they are not numerous enough to give it proper care. They

have secured the aid of nearly every farmer near New Mellary, but they do not suffice to keep the land in perfect condition. It will be a great pity if New Mellary has to disappear.

A MISSIONARY WANTED.—Many a noble undertaking has been nipped in its very bud on account of lack of unity and good-will in Catholic ranks. In our own city during the past decade we could mention not a few instances to substantiate this statement. One cannot spend a half-hour in conversation with Irish Catholics of this city who are willing and ready to step into the breach and strive to bring about a change of sentiment, without having to listen to an expression of regret in regard to the lamentable lack of concerted enterprise in the temporal affairs of our parishes, or the indifference and apathy in connection with other matters which are so necessary to Irish Catholic success in this commercial metropolis.

Irish Catholics of the present, young and old, are piling up a mass of obligations, which those who are to succeed them will have to liquidate, because they will not sacrifice even the habit of playing the part of cynic much less making the other sacrifice of manly devoting some portions of their earnings to the organization of one or more auxiliaries without which no nationality can possibly hope to rise above mediocrity.

Of course we have our parish churches, many of them heavily burdened with debt; we have several institutions to keep our orphans and the aged poor from begging at the doors of those conducted by other races and creeds; we have a limited number of schools, thanks to devoted priests and bands of the Sisterhood. But what institution have we got in Montreal that bears the marks of sacrifice, enterprise and national patriotism of Irish Catholics of today? With the exception of the S. A. A. A. athletic grounds we cannot mention one. Had the sturdy old Irish pioneers of two generations ago manifested the same lack of charity and national pride our position to-day would indeed be a humiliating one. They may have had their differences of opinion on questions of the day, but when the task of erecting a church, building a parish school or providing a home for the orphan or the aged in distress was before them, they did not consider their personal pleasures or advancement, but gave of their small earnings and by their enthusiasm and kindly words of appreciation enhanced their offering.

There is sad need of missionary work in the ranks of Irish Catholics in this metropolis to inspire them with a spirit that will drive the twin-destroyers, selfishness and jealousy, out of their minds and hearts and replace them by a love of unity, co-operation and pride of race, which will enable our people to take full advantage of the free institutions under which we live in this country. Yes, there is pressing need for a missionary to unite our parishes for the common cause, to unite the different sections of our laity with the same aims and purposes and spirit of good-will, to have those auxiliaries to religion such as intermediate schools, a central home for our youth, an hospital for our sick; to inaugurate those commercial undertakings that encourage enterprise. This is the work which is awaiting a missionary in Irish ranks in Montreal, and we have no hesitation in declaring that the chance of achieving a triumphant realization of these projects is no mere outburst of optimism.

MONOPOLIZING OFFICES.—An abuse which exists in this city and one which should not be tolerated, is the practice of certain citizens holding two or more public representative positions at the same time. We have a number of instances of business men occupying seats in parliament, in the City Council, and in other administrative bodies, besides striving to attend to their private affairs. No man, even though he be a veritable genius, could possibly do justice to all concerned. The consequence is that important interests, those that affect the community at large or a minority thereof, are sacrificed to this insane system of

dual and triple and in some instances quadruple system of office-holding by one citizen.

AN EARTHQUAKE.—Reminders of our final end are necessary in this age of secular ideals and mad race after pleasure. They come in different forms. In the days, not very long ago, a death in a neighborhood was sufficient to inspire all friends of the deceased with a salutary lesson of the necessity of being prepared. Death now, it would seem, is robbed of its terrors to all outside of the home or circle in which it occurs. Men prominent in various walks of life die one day and are forgotten by their friends and acquaintances ere the sun goes down on the next day. These few reflections came to us as we read a despatch published in the daily press on Tuesday giving an account of an earthquake which occurred at Wellington, N.Z., the day previous. It is as follows: The heaviest earthquake which New Zealand has experienced in many years occurred at 10.22 o'clock Monday morning. Several public buildings were seriously damaged and private firms also suffered heavy losses. The shock was general on both islands. No loss of life has been reported.

AFTER LONG YEARS.—The Shamrocks and Montreal lacrosse teams have been rivals since the inception of the national game. They have crossed sticks on various fields many hundreds of times. But never before has either team won such a signal victory in all their contests as the "Boys in Green" won on Saturday last on the S. A. A. grounds. The score of 14 to 4 eloquently testifies to the triumph. The Shamrock team of this year is without doubt the best balanced aggregation ever put in the field by the old organization.

THE WATER RATES.—Many of the candidates for civic honors at the last elections were profuse in their promises to reduce the water rates, but up to the present no practical effort has been made to deal with the question. Now certain officials of the city are again discussing the old idea of imposing the water tax on owners of real estate. This is a mere subterfuge and would bring no relief to the working classes to whom the promises were made. There are many other ways of realizing sufficient revenue in this city to meet a substantial reduction or total abolition of water rates if the matter of taxation and who are paying and not paying taxes were thoroughly investigated.

BOOKS FOR CATHOLICS.—One of the questions which Catholics will be forced to deal with ere long in self-protection and to stem the tide of prejudice, caricature and misrepresentation against our religion, is the publication of Catholic novels at popular prices. Our young people of both sexes and for that matter the older generation are handing their ten and fifteen cents over the counters of our book stores for the product of non-Catholic pens of which an exchange gives the following illustration:

"In a book just published in London entitled 'Father Clancy,' a girl asked by a priest what she wore around her neck is made to answer: 'Oh, it's a scapular I have, yer reverence; there is the Blessed Eucharist in it.'"

Of course in some departments Catholic Truth Societies in various countries are doing something towards abating the evil, but lack of financial resources possibly restricts their undertakings.

WILLS AND LEGACIES.—It is very important that men should transact their business in a systematic manner, with an eye to the least possible confusion. And men, in general, do their utmost and give themselves no end of trouble in order to attain this two-fold end. A good, practical man, who has Christian principles, will certainly direct his efforts to the creation of a sufficient competency to enable him to support his family, to educate his children and to give them a good start in life. He is pretty sure to count with all the difficulties and

obstacles that they may have to contend with, and to so arrange matters as to avoid as much friction in the home life as is possible. This is contributing to the material welfare and the temporal happiness of all who depend on him. It is, therefore, a very wonderful thing that when it comes to the making of his will and the granting of legacies that generally a man seems to overlook all future possible difficulties and trouble. He has his idea of how things should be conducted, and during his own life-time, while he is still the connecting link, the governing power, the one in control of the situation, it is quite possible that his idea is correct and his system is beneficial. But he seems to forget that, when the law comes to execute the provisions of his will, he will no longer be present, he will not be there to control matters, to direct the divisions, or to cement the different elements into which the unit of his possessions must be divided. He loses sight of the fact that another condition of things will arise. The situation of a number of sons and daughters living under the same roof, or bound together by the same bond of interest, differs widely from that of each son and each daughter separately building up a new home, or carving out another career. Consequently the conditions and restrictions that might accompany any deed which the father might execute during his lifetime are absolutely different from those that might suit a will that must be executed after his death. The result is that testators frequently will large amounts to their descendants, and at the same time leave them a legacy of contention. In the best of spirit and with the most admirable intentions the one who leaves, by will, what he deems to be a blessing, frequently frustrates his own good purposes and is instrumental in creating strife.

Wills in the majority of cases reveal characteristics which have been carefully concealed by many persons during their lives. Between the lines of their various provisions one may read the ambitions, the spirit of worldliness, even prejudices against those near and dear to the testators.

Few persons of large means who have conquered in the world of commerce and the professions are equal to the simple task of providing for the distribution of their estates after they have passed away to their reward.

VARIETY OF VIEWS.—A correspondent to one of our Catholic American exchanges in noting the criticism of Mr. Dooley's style of writing by another correspondent, who says he is a caricaturist of the Irish race, only emphasizes the old adage "many men of many minds," when he says:

"If Dooley and Hinney and others use a rule of real, dare for real, never, for never, for several things, perhaps they have a natural right to do so."

FEAST OF ST. LAWRENCE.—Wednesday last, the 10th August, was a double commemoration: for the people of Canada. While it was the feast of the great St. Lawrence, the martyr, the model of Christian fortitude, it was equally the day on which Canada was discovered. After hazarding upon unknown seas, Jacques Cartier, the intrepid sailor, of St. Malo, entered the majestic river that flows by our city, on the 10th day of August. Surprised at the immensity of the giant stream, the marvellous beauty of the surrounding panorama, and the vast horizons of a new land that spread out before, the pious mariner named the giant river after the great Saint on whose festival he first sailed its waters—and it became the river St. Lawrence. No more magnificent tribute could be paid to the Saint by a lay man and an explorer than the naming of such a glorious stream in honor of the day of that Saint's passage to heaven. Millions on millions have since travelled up and down that grand river and hundreds of millions of times has the name of St. Lawrence been pronounced. Not always in a spirit of religious devotion, but certainly always associated with admiration for the wondrous work of God that bears his name.