

SHALL WE HAVE

Irish Catholic High School in Montreal?

How to Lay a Sure Foundation for Unity and Solidarity—A Word to the Wealthy Irish Catholics of this City.

In the columns of the TRUE WITNESS lately I have noticed several spirited articles advocating the establishment of some sort of union amongst the Irish Catholics of Montreal.

The idea is a good one. It is patriotic. It is noble.

But how are you going to put it into practice? What response have you received from those to whom we have been accustomed to look up as leaders, those who owe their present positions—some of them, at all events—to the support of the Irish-Catholic masses? None as yet.

Perhaps they may take the matter up in the near future, or later on. A movement of such importance is not set on foot in a few weeks or a few months. It takes time. I have my doubts about it, however; and I shall tell you why.

To be brief, my pessimism on this subject arises from the consideration of one fact, which is to me a very remarkable one; and that is the lack of interest shown by our well-to-do Irish Catholics in the higher educational welfare of our Irish Catholic youth as a body.

Now, there are Irish Catholic millionaires and semi-millionaires, and men with fortunes that run to one, two, and three hundred thousand dollars, in Montreal, on whom the donation of \$10,000 or \$20,000 towards the establishment and endowment of such an educational institution would entail no great financial wrench.

It may be urged that they have never given any thought to the matter. If they have not done so hitherto, it may be hoped that they will take it into their serious consideration now, especially when I mention for their benefit a circumstance of which I am loth to believe that they can have been previously aware—namely, that the clergy of St. Patrick's Church are already in possession of a site—a very advantageous and most suitable site—for the erection of an Irish Catholic High School; that, in fact, they have had this site on their hands for several years, but have been unable to begin building operations because they have no money for the purpose.

Here is an excellent opportunity for my wealthy Irish Catholic fellow-citizens to exercise their philanthropic and patriotic instincts, to earn for themselves enduring renown as true benefactors of their race and their religion.

SCRUTATOR.

IRELAND'S FINANCIAL BURDENS.

In the masterly speech with which he opened the great Irish Race Convention held recently in Dublin, Bishop O'Donnell, of Raphoe, drew attention to the glaringly unjust manner in which Ireland has been over-taxed since the so-called union—the union, as Lord Byron termed it, of the tiger with its prey. He pointed out that, according to the report which had just then been issued, of the Royal Commission on the Financial Relations of Great Britain and Ireland, the latter country, impoverished though it has been for generations owing to British misrule, is obliged to pay in revenue taxes \$12,500,000 a year more than she is called upon by her relative taxable capacity to pay.

until they now realize to the full the cruel injustice from which they have so long suffered by being over-taxed to this enormous extent annually. As a result a wave of indignation is passing over the length and breadth of the land. The necessity for such a readjustment of financial burdens as Home Rule would bring about has aroused the national spirit to renewed energy and effort; and the last link in the chain of unity has been forged.

The cry of justice to Ireland has received additional strength; and with this bitter fact that their poor motherland is annually robbed of \$12,500,000 by wealthy England staring them in the face, the most irreconcilable of factionists are swelling the popular ranks. The contemplation of a grievance of such magnitude has completed the work of the Race Convention by restoring unity to the Nationalist ranks.

Note and Comment.

There are over thirty negro members of the Chicago Bar.

Richard Croker has resumed the leadership of Tammany's forces.

Mr. Bennett, M.P. for East Simcoe, has been unseated by the courts.

The London protested election case has been adjourned to January 15th.

Bishop Keane has reached Rome and been given an audience by the Pope.

Thomson says that in the English of the present day there are 57,000 words.

Friday next, New Year's Day, will not be a day of abstinence in the diocese of Montreal.

The Council of Verdun has decided against allowing a saloon within that municipality.

Hermann, the conjurer, made lots of money and lived well. He only left \$27.00 behind him.

Mr. Henry Richards has recently been elected Mayor of Aberavon, England. He is totally blind.

Hon. George Edwin King has been appointed British commissioner for the Behring Sea arbitration.

The Council of Westmont has prohibited the erection of tenements in certain sections of that town.

The St. Ann's Young Men's Society have just commenced an exciting contest for a Gendron bicycle.

The Minister of Militia has appointed a board to enquire into the trouble in the Queen's Own Rifles, Toronto.

Miss Sims, the victim of the St. Martin street (Montreal) tragedy, died last Wednesday, after the performance of a surgical operation.

The Dominion Government has been asked to adopt a new ballot for Dominion elections. It is alleged that the Durocher ballot now in use is not satisfactory.

Brazil has made the claim that the territory in dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela belongs rightly to her, and that her claim can be substantiated by documentary evidence.

A bill prohibiting the wearing by women of divided skirts, bloomer bicycle suits, or any other garment resembling men's attire, was recently introduced in the Alabama State Legislature and defeated.

The ruling of a New York judge, that Dakota divorces are not valid in the Empire State, has caused consternation amongst a number of people in New York, who are directly affected by the decision.

Hon. Sidney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, has returned from Washington, where he was interviewing Secretary Morton on matters of international import. He states that his mission was successful.

There is a probability of the Ontario Government going to the people for reelection at an early date. The present is considered an auspicious time for a Liberal Administration to appeal to the electorate.

It is stated that the principal Powers of Europe have decided to coerce Turkey into decency. Should the Sultan not show an early disposition to act justly with the Armenians steps are to be taken to compel him to do so.

The City Council should devote some of their attention to the cheap theatres in this city, and at least pass a by-law prohibiting young boys from entering them. Alderman Kinsella and Alderman Connaughton should take the matter up.

Let the pessimists who have been preaching hard times visit the large dry goods and general stores on our principal thoroughfares and watch the throng of people jostling each other purchasing holiday presents.

If you want to obtain an idea of the number of able bodied men out of employment in this city, or the number of young clerks, &c., who waste their time and who are supposed to be attending to

the business for which other citizens are paying them, spend a few moments in the vicinity of Cote street and watch the throng coming out of the dime theatre.

The Cathedral presented a lonely scene at Midnight Mass. There was none of that beautiful ceremonial splendor such as characterized similar occasions in the past when His Grace Archbishop Fabre presided. There was a semi-funereal gloom seemingly pervading the sacred edifice.

Our French-Canadian grandfathers will have a lively time to-morrow evening when their sons, daughters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grand children and their children's grand children, and their brothers and sisters, assemble under their roof to honor the grand old custom of the New Year's reunion.

The press of England is full of suggestions of every imaginable nature as to the most fitting way of marking the sixtieth anniversary of the Queen's coronation. Men and women in different spheres of life suggest the inauguration of great movements or the establishment of lasting monuments to benefit or perpetuate the ideas of their particular class.

R. J. Cooke, the able and enthusiastic president of the Shamrock Lacrosse Club, is to be married to Miss Asselin on January 12. The Shamrock boys are of the opinion that their first officer is showing an excellent example at the beginning of the New Year, and one which might be followed by a few others, who are just a trifle overgrown as eligible bachelors.

A few days ago there was a rumor circulated that Mr. J. P. Clarke, one of the leading young Conservatives of St. Ann's, would put on his armor and enter the field for the Quebec Parliament. It now appears that Mr. Clarke is quite content with a little indulgence in the pastime of assisting other aspirants for such offices rather than in looking for them himself. Joseph is a philosopher.

Secretary Olney's rebuke to the United States on their Cuban resolutions is received by the Senators with no good grace. Mr. Olney is looked upon as the mouthpiece of President Cleveland, and the latter is accused by the crossed Senators of trying to assume the prerogatives of a "dictator." The probabilities are that the House of Representatives will not pass the resolutions, however. K. D. C.

Religious News Items.

Archbishop Martinelli, the Papal Delegate, will make his first extended trip through the United States immediately after Christmas.

January 19 has been chosen as the date upon which Rev. Dr. T. J. Conaty will be established as rector of the Catholic University, Washington.

The Catholic Germans of Brazil will hold their first general congress in February, 1897, at Porto Alegre in the State of Rio Grande do Sul.

A Protestant journal in England announces that the Government will devote £1,000,000 to the endowment of a Catholic university for Ireland.

His Holiness Leo XIII has lately conferred the degree of doctor of divinity on Very Rev. Patrick O'Leary, senior dean in the College of St. Patrick's, Maynooth.

Rev. Hugh J. McManus, rector of the Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Doylestown, died at the Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia, last week. Father McManus was a native of County Cavan, Ireland, and was born in December, 1850.

The Paulists have suffered a great loss by the death of Rev. Martin Casserly, which occurred at Roosevelt Hospital, New York, last week. Father Casserly was noted for the part he took in the great municipal reform movement that swept New York a few years ago.

The Most Rev. James Lynch, D. D., Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, died at Tullow, County Carlow, on Dec. 19. He was consecrated in 1856, and succeeded Bishop Walsh. The diocese includes the County of Carlow and parts of Kildare, Queen's county, King's county, Kilkenny, Wicklow, and Wexford.

Foreign News Items.

Londoners drink 1,400 tons of liquid mud a year, according to recent expert testimony before the County Council.

Germany's decay in musical matters is beginning. It has been found advisable lately to provide analytical programmes at Dresden concerts.

Mrs. Smith, a hundred-year-old lady of Grantham, England, does all her own housework, nurses an invalid nephew, and sells potatoes, which she has planted and dug up herself.

The Marquis de Montcalm, the last male representative of the family of the defender of Quebec, died recently at Montpellier. He transmitted the name and title by legal process to an adopted son.

Prince Karl Egon of Fürstenburg, who died recently, left a fortune of \$85,000,000 in land and over \$10,000,000 in cash and securities. The family had been sovereign in the principality before the French revolution, but was mediatized by the Congress of Vienna.

The Times has a despatch from Paris saying that the United States Government has been confidentially informed in the most friendly terms that the European powers could not remain impassive in the event of the United States abandoning the attitude of President Cleveland and his Cabinet.

Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M. D., has been elected President of the East Anglican Branch of the British Medical Association. Since the admission of women to the London examinations in 1882, more

than fifty have taken degrees, and have on several occasions won gold medals for obstetrics, anatomy, and materia medica.

At Budapest women are now admitted to medical lectures by law, if the professor will consent. The senior professor of surgery, however, refused to allow a woman candidate to enter his course unless she would agree to have her hair cut short, on the ground that "wool carries infection."

A bankruptcy which occurred in 1811 has just been wound up in the London Registrar's Court by a payment that brings the total dividends up to 100 cents on the dollar. A recent bankrupt at about the same time offered to settle at the rate of 1 27 of a penny in the pound, or 7-10 of a cent to a dollar.

The unique spectacle of Irish Unionists and Home Rulers, says an English correspondent of an American journal, joining in hot pursuit of the English Government is having a sobering effect on the Unionists who at first, following the Times' lead, urged the Government to reject the Irish demand for a readjustment of taxation. The St. James' Gazette even proposes that a beginning be made of local government for Ireland by allocating to Irish local bodies the \$10,000,000 now raised annually from the spirit duties in Ireland. Many Liberals would support this proposal if the local government were real and not a mere strengthening of unrepresentative grand juries, and the money were used to develop fisheries, railways, roads and agriculture. That such a proposal should come from a high Tory quarter, which last year angrily declared that Ireland had more than enough, is a striking sign of the times.

A MISCHIEVOUS INVENTION.

It may never have occurred to you, unless you are a novelist of the analytical school, that the chief delight of a talk by telephone lies in the incompleteness of the association. Ostensibly the two parties to a telephonic conversation have their heads together and each other by the ear. Literally each is entrenched in his own privacy, and in this there are salient advantages. Who has not noted the agreeable ease with which one may voice the conventionalities of civilization in one of those little hermetically-sealed telephone coops? Is not one wholly freed from the laborious necessity of fitting his facial expression to the fib of the moment? May not one look honestly bored or indifferent or glaringly mendacious and still project words of faultless gentility over the pulsing wire? It would clearly be impossible to compute the enormous benefits of this absolute to the nervous system of this century. In the telephone box—and we are resorting to it more and more as its functions multiply—we need "make up" nothing but the voice. It is necessary only that we express politely our regret, condolence, felicitation, concern, or whatsoever quality of tone may seem fitting—and all the facial hypocrisy which we must bring into play in a personal interview may be dispensed with for our own natural face. Indeed it is scarcely visionary to predict that if this incompleteness of contact, this semi-isolation, be persevered in for another decade or so, we shall attain the condition of brutal frankness in the social relation which is so earnestly longed for by certain moralists. For it is indisputable that the seclusion of the telephone cabinet and the remoteness of the other party to the confab conduce surprisingly to frankness of expression. The very absence of all facial contortion, all simulation of polite emotions, makes many of us verbally honest in spite of ourselves. It is notorious that men have called each other liars and other things, per telephone, who would otherwise never have voiced their real sentiments.

And now comes a meddling and impertinent inventor from the other side of the continent, who promises to shatter this charm of novelty and mystery and saving of facial emotion by a device that will permit the two telephoners to see each other as clearly as if they stood ace to face. We have no hesitation in denouncing him as the feeblest foe of society, and we hereby proclaim that he should be weighted with the machinery of his invention and promptly sunk into the nether depths of public contempt. He would reduce this weird and mystical and highly restful convenience to the wearing hypocrisy of a personal interview. Whatever gain we have made in social honesty would at once be lost. And a vast amount of worry and inconvenience would be saddled upon all patrons of the telephone. The lady of the house could no longer telephone to her butcher or her dearest woman friend in early morning negligee as she may now. Nor would she dare to answer a ring at the phone without first rushing to the mirror to make assurance of her entire presentability. Are there any advantages here to compensate for the present privilege of invisibility? And consider the man of the house. At present he may telephone to his home that a rush of work may detain him at the office until late. And he can tinge the announcement with such convincing pathos that he is frequently believed. Why burden him with the further necessity of appearing regretful? And why make it impossible for him to announce that he is "out of town" when a bothersome creditor inquires for him over the wire? And be sure this thing won't stop with the telephone if it is allowed to go on at all. A time will come when we may not write a letter or a telegram unless a vitascope likeness of our actions at the time accompanies it; and a little thought will convince the most obtuse that this would be undesirable.

And the last of this progression of mischievous devices would be one to lay bare our inmost thoughts to the world. From this would follow the utter destruction of individuality. The world would be intensely interesting under such conditions for a time only. Gradually it would become as conventional and barren and monotonous in thought and ac-

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tion (there would be no speech of course) as it now is in dress and general outward semblance.

Shall the soul's privacy be thus invaded? We do not wholly despair for the reason that there is still a wheel or two missing in the invention referred to. If it be found not to exist in the realm of mechanics, but only in the head of the inventor, all will be well. If otherwise, we will cheerfully form part of a company that shall have for its object the suppression of all telephones.—Nickell Magazine.

Irish News Items.

It is understood that some days since a meeting of representative Catholic public men was held in Dublin to draw up a scheme for a State endowed Catholic University for Ireland. Representatives of the various political parties took part in the conference, and it is stated that their report will be now considered by the Bishops and Archbishops previous to another pronouncement on the subject.

The election of chief magistrate for Dublin resulted in Lord Mayor McCoy securing a second year's tenure of office by three votes, including his own, over those recorded for Sir Robert Sexton, his Unionist opponent. In Cork the Parnellite candidate, P. H. Meade, was returned by twenty-eight votes, James Dwyer, the Nationalist nominee, receiving twenty-four. In Sligo P. A. McHugh, M. P., and in Limerick Michael Cusack (Nationalist) were unanimously re-elected. Nationalist Mayors were also elected in Drogheda and Kilkenny in the persons of Peter Lynch and Alderman Cantwell; and in Clonmel a Parnellite candidate, Alderman E. Burke, was unanimously chosen.

The dispute in the Irish Bacon Trade may be regarded as over so far as Limerick is concerned. The merchants are now purchasing direct from farmers a sufficient number of pigs for all their requirements. Prospects of the pig buyers being able to abolish with the curers' regulation to that effect are looking hopeless. On Thursday the Limerick merchants received direct by road or railway over a thousand pigs, and on Friday another consignment. It is reported that the curers have refused to refer the dispute to arbitration, an offer which they themselves made at the outset of the quarrel, but which the pig buyers then refused to entertain. The buyers have been disappointed in the support they received from the farmers and the pork butchers.

The Lord Lieutenant and the Countess Cadogan on the 11th instant paid a visit to the conference and exhibition in celebration of the tercentenary of the potato. His Excellency, replying to an address of welcome, said he looked to the establishment of a Board of Agriculture which would attend to all matters mentioned in the address, and which would take upon itself to supply the information and assistance required by agriculturists. Having returned from London early that morning, where he had the opportunity of consulting with his colleagues, he might say with more certainty than political prophecies could usually be uttered, that a Board of Agriculture would be created during the ensuing Session of Parliament. In the meantime he would consult with the members of the Congested Districts Board and the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission, in order that experiments might be carried out to ascertain which were the best varieties to succeed the now failing "champion" potato.

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CATHOLIC POET DEAD.

A notable Catholic layman passed away in England lately by the death of Coventry Patmore, the poet. Born in 1823, Mr. Patmore devoted a quarter of a century of his life to the British Museum, in which he was one of the librarians from 1844 to 1868; but he was always

more or less engaged in literary work. He was a staunch, loyal and practical Catholic, and he often showed himself a generous benefactor of needy churches. To him Lynton, the place of his residence, owes the handsome church it possesses.

A GOOD MISER.

A telegram from New Orleans states that the will of the late Benjamin A. Keenan, the recluse who to the day of his death was called a miser, has just been opened. He has left property worth \$200,000, part of it in Ireland and part of it in Louisiana.

The Irish property, all of which is in Dublin county, is left to Archbishop Walsh, of Dublin, for an asylum for the poor of both sexes. The bulk of the New Orleans property is left to Archbishop Janssens, of New Orleans, for a similar asylum in this city; a part of the real estate is left to Mr. Keenan's sister and other relatives, to go at their death to the Little Sisters of the Poor, House of the Good Shepherd and Home for the Lepers.

Proof—"I know," said Mrs. Barlow, "that it isn't Billy that is quarrelsome. Why, he will play here all day by himself, and I never hear a word, but just as soon as some little boy comes there is a fight coming on."—Harper's Bazar.

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