

ST. GABRIEL BAZAAR.

A Successful Wind-Up to the Week's Bazaar—The Address to Father O'Meara.

The bazaar in aid of the St. Gabriel Church, which has been so successfully carried on during the past week, came to a very satisfactory finish on Saturday night. The profits of the bazaar amounted to over \$3,500, which shows that it was a success both socially and financially. Special mention must be made of the banquet held on Thursday evening in honor of the Shamrocks. Among the many who were present were noticed: Rev. P. McMenamin, Rev. P. O'Donnell, Rev. J. E. Donnelly and Rev. M. L. Shea; Hon. J. J. Curran, Solicitor General, A. W. Morris, M. L. A. and the guests of honor (the champion twelve of the Shamrock club headed by their worthy president, J. Clark).

During the dinner, which lasted all evening, Prof. Sullivan and his pupils gave a number of selections. Miss Alice Herbert, Wm. Fleming, Masters Shea and Kennedy also contributed to make the evening a pleasant one. Much praise is due to the lady president, Mrs. James McMenamin and her assistants, who made the banquet such an equivocal success.

Mr. John S. Shea, leader of the St. Gabriel choir, had charge of the musical entertainments given during the bazaar, and acquitted himself to great advantage.

The feature of interest at the closing of the bazaar was the contest between the Shamrock and St. Gabriel Lacrosse clubs for a valuable diamond ring, which, after an exciting struggle, resulted in favor of the St. Gabriel's by a majority of over three hundred votes. By the unanimous consent of the members of his club Richard Ryan was presented with the diamond ring.

During the course of the evening Mrs. James McMenamin, accompanied by her lady assistants of the bazaar, ascended the stage and read the following address to Rev. Father O'Meara, the worthy pastor of St. Gabriel's:—

REV. AND DEAR FATHER.—As our bazaar is drawing to a close, we, the ladies of St. Gabriel's, deem it proper to take advantage of the present occasion to offer you our sincere congratulations on the successful effort you have so worthily accomplished.

No doubt you undertook the more than difficult task under very trying circumstances, but God has blessed your efforts and we feel confident He will crown them with a grand success.

We desire, also, on this favorable occasion to offer you our heartfelt sympathy with all your trials, assuring you that any pain felt by you is equally shared by your devoted people. You were called upon by your worthy superior to take charge of this parish, as we are well aware, under great difficulties, debts and financial embarrassments, but with the help of God and your own remarkable energy and perseverance you have succeeded in removing the ominous clouds of the past and placing us in the light of religious prosperity; the end of our ambition. And to-day we can truly say that if we are standing within the walls of our own church, which, in a short time, will be a rare and worthy temple to our Lord, a fitting ornament to the city of Montreal, and a credit to the generous people of St. Gabriel, we owe it to God's kindness, and to you, our worthy and esteemed pastor.

We also compliment you on the efficient manner in which you have preserved good order and harmony all through the bazaar, as well as in securing for it a financial success. We are grateful to all those who helped us by their very generous donations, their cheerful presence and kind words. We thank, in like manner, the good ladies from neighboring parishes, who voluntarily came to our assistance, and we assure them of our help in return in a similar cause.

Trusting you are pleased with the result of our earnest efforts we once more congratulate you and beg you to accept our assurance that when your voice is raised again for help you will find the same willing hearts ready to support you in all your undertakings.

Signed on behalf of the ladies of the bazaar and parish of St. Gabriel.

MRS. JAMES MCMENAMIN,
Lady President.

MRS. JOHN MCFEE,
MRS. JOHN MCMENAMIN,
MRS. JOHN CONNORS,
MRS. HENRY ARMSTRONG, etc.

Father O'Meara was, of course, taken by surprise, but it was a most agreeable one, and he responded in a very feeling manner, thanking them for their kindness and assuring them that he owed his success wholly to their devotion and generous co-operation. At the end of the reading of the address Miss Nellie Armstrong presented on behalf of the ladies a beautiful bouquet, which Father O'Meara accepted amidst loud applause.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The Night School Question.

To the Editor of the TRUE WITNESS:

SIR,—You have been doing good service in every cause which you have espoused since you took control of the editorial department of THE TRUE WITNESS. In no department has your facile pen found a more congenial field than in that of education. Your articles on that subject have been widely read, and in many schools your suggestions have been put to the test and not found wanting. Your special articles, together with your correspondence on the subject of a night school for St. Ann's parish, have caused a sensation among the people, old and young—I am speaking mildly. In fact, there is a feeling of intense indignation aroused against the partisan manner in which the School Board discharges its duties and obligations in the matter of a most important public trust. This feeling has been deeply accentuated by the cavalier manner in which the Board received a deputation of our K. or L., on the afternoon of the 9th inst. It is true the deputation was not from the ranks of millionaires or boodlers. No: it was from the ranks of the honest, horny-handed sons of toil; handicapped with the double-dyed sin of having English for their mother tongue; and a censorious resolution in "shopkeepers" language, too vulgar for the refined ears to which it was addressed—hence the haughty manner in which the deputation was received. Now, Mr. Editor, you will permit me to offer a few suggestions. Taking up the dropped thread of a letter which appeared in your issue of the 14th inst., over the letter "K," I would suggest that a meeting of interested citizens be called at an early date, to meet in the St. Ann's Y. M. Hall, to discuss the question in all its phases, to pass a series of resolutions on the subject; and that these resolutions be presented by a committee named by the meeting to the Hon. Mr. Hall, the Treasurer of the Province, for an expression of his opinion as one of Montreal's representatives in the Cabinet. The deputation might be instructed to ask the Hon. Treasurer for a distinct and separate grant, to be used in opening a night school for the workingmen, in St. Ann's school, under the control of the noble Christian Brothers. It would also be in order to demand adequate Irish Catholic representation on the Board, or legislation giving us a separate and independent Board of our own. If the present Board of Commissioners are able to treat the wishes of forty or fifty thousand Irish Catholics with studied contempt, and a total disregard of their rights, it would be well to make the Hon. Mr. Hall feel that the Government of which he is a member cannot afford to antagonize the Irish people by pursuing the same course our paternal Board of School Commissioners are pursuing towards us.

J. S. KEELY.

Those Night Schools.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

DEAR SIR,—The public has been led into the belief the Catholic School Commissioners have engaged the services of their own teachers ONLY, for the night schools. Is the statement borne out by facts? The public can judge for themselves, by referring to the published list of teachers employed in Olier and Belmont schools. At Olier school will be found two men of the name of Primeau, father and son. At Belmont school, another Primeau, also a son of Primeau, senior, of Olier school. One of these two young men is a law-student, consequently, not a teacher under the Board. When a teacher of St. Mary's school, St. Mary's Parish, applied for a position on the night-school staff, he was informed that the Commissioners were engaging their own staff ONLY. How do facts and statements tally, Mr. Director-General?

K.

To The Editor of The True Witness.

Dear Sir:—I would wish now to say a few words on the responsibilities of our Aldermen: and here let me first thank you for publishing my letter respecting immoral representations in our city, the indecencies of which must shock the pure minded and, like the cholera, tend to contaminate the community. Aldermen are called City Fathers; they have

accepted a trust, namely, the fatherhood of a great family. Alas! Aldermen have a great power, that of levying taxes and compelling the payment of the same; but such should only be for urgent and necessary improvements. Economy, with fair pay only for the workman, should be the rule and basis of their expenditure of taxes drawn from the rich and the poor. But costly and ornamental structures, monuments &c., should be ignored while the city is a debtor for large loans bearing interest. In the home of the wise father of a family thrift must be observed, for debt and ruin, or sickness perhaps, may follow the extra expense of a costly fancy bonnet, kid boots, silk umbrellas &c., all of which could be well done without. The comparison may be thought extreme, but when we look at the ruinous proclivities of our City Fathers for borrowing money which must be paid back by further taxation, I don't think the comparison extreme. Dear Sir, I would like to see what you have to say on this subject.

JULIA.

MONTREAL Dec. 19th 1892.

(As in the case of the placards, we agree with "Julia." More practical economy is needed in the administration of civic affairs—Ed. T. W.)

Midnight Mass.

The midnight Mass at Notre Dame Church on Christmas Eve will be marked by some novel music. Ivitch's solemn Mass will be given for the first time in America under the baton of Mr. Achille Fortier, with a full orchestration. Among the artists are Messrs. F. Jehin Plume, E. M. Plume, J. B. Dubois, Ed. Hardy and several other well known musicians. At the organ will be Mr. Beique. At the Vespers will be given the Benedictus and O Salutaris of Amb. Thomas, duo by Messrs. R. Bourdon and Ed. Lebel. Ave Maria, composed expressly by Mr. Achille Fortier for Mr. R. Budoan, violoncello obligato by J. R. Dubois. The choir will render the Tantum Ergo of J. Haydn, and the Laudate of Amb. Thomas. Tickets for the Midnight Mass may be had at the Seminary.

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