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# True AND Witness

Vol. LVIII., No. 26

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1908

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QUEBEC CITY



## Note and Comment

According to the Catholic census of New Orleans, which Archbishop Glennon, of St. Louis, has been compiling for several months, and which has been made public, says the Cincinnati Catholic Telegraph, the Crescent City has 181,549 Catholic communicants out of a total population of about 350,000. This report will form part of a larger one which the Archbishop of St. Louis will make on all dioceses in the country.

Ireland's oldest painter recently died in the person of Richard Hooke, of Manchester, whose death at a great age evidently escaped attention in Ireland. More than sixty years ago he was painting portraits in his native city of Belfast, and for many years he exhibited his pictures at the Royal Hibernian Academy. Finally he went to Manchester, where his reputation was enhanced by his numerous portraits of notable citizens of that city. Quite a number of works from his brush are in private houses in the North of Ireland. Though an exile, Hooke never forgot the country of his birth but took a keen interest in her doings.

The sixth Aonach, or Irish Industrial Exhibition and Sale of Irish Manufactures and Produce, held under the auspices of the Gaelic League of London, was formally opened on Nov. 17, at the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall, Westminster. Sir Horace Plunkett, in presiding at the opening ceremony, spoke in most hopeful terms of the prospects for Ireland's future, especially in view of the revolution in land tenure now going on throughout the country.

Mgr. Duparc, Bishop of Quimper, has been fined three hundred francs for an alleged infraction of the French government's law on teaching by religious congregations which had been dissolved. He provided a house after they had been secularized, and they set up school in it as ordinary French citizens.

Dr. H. Zeller, director of the Statistical Bureau in Stuttgart, has just published his religious census of the world. He computes the number of human beings in the world at 1,544,510,000. Of these, 584,940,000 are Christians, 175,290,000 Mohammedans, 10,860,000 Jews, 300,000,000 Confucians, 214,000,000 Brahmans and 121,000,000 Buddhists, with other bodies of lesser numbers.

According to news received from Sant'Agello di Sorrento, where F. Marion Crawford has a magnificent villa overlooking the bluest spot in the blue Mediterranean—the Bay of Naples—the great American novelist is obliged, if not to stop altogether, at least to lessen his work on the new story he is writing to be dramatized in America. Since his return from the Tyrol he has not been well, while a rising temperature, going every day somewhat above the normal, denotes the presence of fever. The doctors, including some specialists from Naples, have not been able exactly to establish the nature of the fever, but it is supposed to be rheumatism.

A number of names have been added to the official roll of honor of the Church during the week. On Sunday His Holiness Pope Pius X., amidst a concourse of Cardinals, archbishops and priests, conferred the title of Venerable on thirty-six sons and daughters of the Church, who, by the sanctity of their lives, have been adjudged worthy of this distinction. The most noteworthy name on the list is that of Jeanne d'Arc, the heroine of Orleans. The others are those of missionaries and

converts in China and Oochin China who were put to death for their belief in Christ. They were Fathers Etienne Eudes, Jean Geunot, Peter Nell, Francesco Nores, Theophile Venard, Chepolla and twenty-nine companions.

It is announced from Rome that His Holiness Pope Pius X. has entirely recovered from his recent indisposition, caused by his contracting cold during the great Jubilee celebration at Rome. Last Wednesday he resumed his audiences.

The preparatory work for the beatification of the Venerable John Duns Scotus, the great Franciscan champion of Our Lady's unique privilege, has, says the Franciscan Annals, just been concluded. It fills two large printed volumes. It now remains to be examined.

once more drew thousands of music lovers to the hall which has witnessed so many of her triumphs.

The Pope's appointment of Lord Denbigh as representative in England of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, is an evidence of the high favor in which this important peer is held in Rome. The late Earl Denbigh was converted to the Church, and the present earl married into the Catholic family of Clifford of Chudleigh, which has given several nuns—sisters of Lady Denbigh—to the Church.

Rev. Thomas I. Gasson, S.J., president of Boston College, is already an honorary member of the Passamaquoddy tribe of Indians, Maine, and if he can but spare time for a little trip to South Dakota, he will be received into the Sioux tribe as

## BETHLEHEM.

Two thousand years of time and ten thousand miles of land and sea separates us from the Bethlehem of the days of Christ.

The little town still stands. It is wrapped around with the love of Christian millions, crowding along its narrow streets, filling every sacred spot and clinging around every storied scene is the grateful memory of a ransomed world.

Hidden away among its palms, harvest-fields stretching their golden lengths before it, and gentle hills rising behind, Bethlehem awaited one night to listen to the choir of angels singing the birth of the Savior of men.

Fancy can scarcely paint that scene. Heaven and earth came close

Amazed at what they had seen and heard, the shepherds stood silent and in awe. But soon a voice broke in upon their wonder and bade them fear nothing, for "Behold we bring you tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people, for this day there is born to you a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord, in the City of David. And this shall be a sign to you. You shall find the Infant wrapped in swathing clothes and lying in a manger." Then they said one to another, Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this wondrous thing that has come to pass. And going with haste they found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

That night, and Bethlehem became the most sacred city in all the world. Henceforth it is the shrine to which the pilgrim from every land will bend his way. The cradle of Christianity in all times and in every land the faithful Christian looks back to it with all that love with which the tired wanderer regards the fire-side hearth around which in care- less childhood he loved to play.

In the course of the weary centuries that have gone by since the coming of Christ what mighty scenes were enacted around the cradle of His birth.

Emboldened amid its palms and within the shadow of Jerusalem the little town must share the joys and sorrows of the once proud capital of Judea. Through its narrow streets, over its varied places, across its fruitful fields went the war chariots of Rome and the tramp of her conquering legions. Her stately trees were cut away to make the battering rams that beat down the proud gates of Jerusalem. Her ruined houses supplied fuel for the tent fires of the soldiers of Titus. When all was over and the mighty hand of Rome had done its work the remnant of her people looked out upon the mighty ruin that should endure until He completed the course of all the nations.

Centuries later and another drama was enacted amid these hallowed scenes. The same streets, the same fields, the same sacred places were crimsoned with the drops of Christian and Mohammedan blood. Turbanned chiefs and mailed crusaders met in combat, and for three hundred years the battle for the possession of the world was waged around the birthplace of the world's Redeemer. To-day the little town of Bethlehem stands as of yore. It may, indeed, be poor, and yet it is in no wise the least among the premiers of Judea, for out of it has come the One who will rule the people of Israel.

Out from the manger at Bethlehem went forth a power such as the world never saw before. Noiseless, indeed as the light of the morning, but resistless as though backed by the force of armed men. It went forth conquering and to conquer. It spoke to the poor and the lowly and told him that he was the brother of the king. It entered the prison and the dungeon, and spoke words of comfort to the miserable and oppressed. It struck the shackles from the limbs of the galley slave, and closed the mouths of the tigers and lions in every arena in the broad empire of Rome. It lifted humanity up from the low places into which it had fallen and said to man that he was the chef d'oeuvre of the earthly handiwork of God and that he was created a little lower than the angels. Such in its wide sweep is the Christian religion, and such is the mighty influence that saw its inception at Bethlehem nearly two thousand years ago.

## Jerusalem.

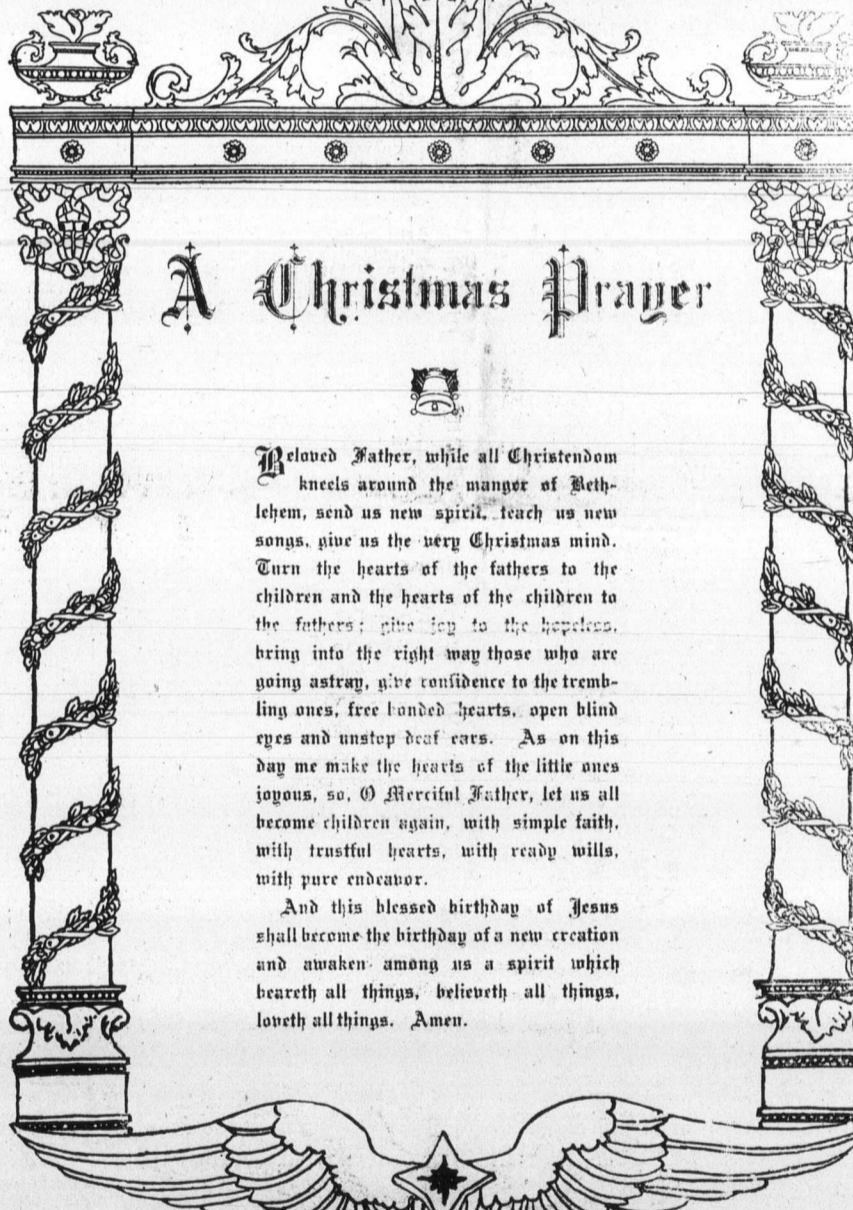
(Written for True Witness.)  
Deep the snow lay on the ground,  
As the shepherds gathered round  
Jesus' stall,  
Sweetly angels sang above,  
Songs of "Joy and songs of love,  
"Peace to all."

The sweet Virgin Mother mild,  
Kneelt beside her Infant Child,  
Full of grace,  
And her heart with love ablaze  
Held her long enraptured gaze  
On His face.

Spouse of Mary, too, knelt by  
And the love light in his eye  
Spoke his heart,  
Pouring forth their souls in prayer,  
Pious shepherds lingered there,  
Loath to part.

O dear Savior grant that we  
Yet may have the joy to see  
In heav'n above,  
That sweet Babe, who in the stall,  
Filled the hearts of mankind all  
With His love.

J. FRANCIS FLYNN



## A Christmas Prayer

Beloved Father, while all Christendom kneels around the manger of Bethlehem, send us new spirit, teach us new songs, give us the very Christmas mind. Turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers; give joy to the hopeless, bring into the right way those who are going astray, give confidence to the trembling ones, free larded hearts, open blind eyes and unstep deaf ears. As on this day we make the hearts of the little ones joyous, so, O Merciful Father, let us all become children again, with simple faith, with trustful hearts, with ready wills, with pure endeavor.

And this blessed birthday of Jesus shall become the birthday of a new creation and awaken among us a spirit which beareth all things, believeth all things, loneth all things. Amen.

The Catholic Press was the one great vital subject overlooked at the Chicago Missionary Congress, says the Central Catholic. The accumulation of too many cares upon too few organizers can be the only explanation of this grave oversight.

Dr. Thomas F. McParlan is the fourth New Yorker to receive Papal honors within the last month. Because of his charitable work the title of Knight of St. Gregory comes to him at the personal request of Archbishop Aversa, Apostolic Delegate to Cuba and Porto Rico, and has the hearty approval of Archbishop Farley.

Father Vaughan's concert at Albert Hall, London, resulted in the collection of £1080 for poor children. For this he is greatly indebted to the generosity of Mme. Pattl, who emerged from her retirement and

a warrior with a right to sit at its councils. Even these adoptions into families of the only indigenous Americans can hardly make Father Gasson a better American than he is; but he has been a devoted friend to the Indians of Maine, and it is pleasant to see the grateful appreciation of the Indians of other sections of the country.

Mother Matilda Tone, of the Ladies of the Sacred Heart, who died recently at the New York convent of pneumonia, was of a family closely connected with the distinguished Irish patriot, Theobald Wolfe Tone. Mother Tone entered religion at the age of eighteen, and after profession at the motherhouse in France and while still in her twenties, she was appointed to the responsible office of Mistress General of the famous Manhattanville Academies, which she filled in this and other academies with great success for twenty-two years.

together when mortal ear listened to angels' song, and mortal eyes beheld a heavenly light. It was midnight and the great moon silvered the little city and the plain. No breeze stirred, and the sacred stillness of that eastern night possessed the land. Out upon the neighboring hill the simple shepherds kept the night-watches over their combat, and for three hundred years the battle for the possession of the flocks. In low tones, no doubt, they spoke of that which was uppermost in the mind of all the people. They spoke of Quirinius and the enrollment. They spoke of the departed glory of Judea and of the approaching time when the promised Deliverer should be born in their own little city.

And as they talked, lo! a wondrous thing came to pass. A bright light lit up the hills around. It was a soft, ethereal light, not like that of sun or moon or stars. And suddenly the strains of heavenly music flooded the hills, the city and the plain. They listened and in the music was the voice of angels and they heard for the first time the Gloria in Excelsis Deo.