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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

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

† PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

SATURDAY.....DECEMBER 11, 1897

REMEMBER THE POOR.

Christmas is not only a season of joy and jubilation, it is, *par excellence*, the season of Charity. With the introductory days of Advent comes the duty of preparing for its proper celebration, and that celebration will be imperfect, and of little avail, if it be not characterized by some substantial proof of regard for one's poorer and less fortunate neighbor. It, in a word, is not marked by a generous, a Christmas, distribution of alms. Let those whom God has blessed with abundance, or even a sufficiency, for their wants, think of the numberless homes where no fire burns, or, if it burns, burns but to mock the scene it brightens. In thousands of instances these are not the homes of the professional poor, but of those who have succumbed to the vicissitudes of life, who are powerless to work and still more powerless to beg, and who would part with their last family relic, and would allow sickness and even death itself to intervene rather than face the cold heartless refusal of their purse-proud neighbors. To enter properly, then, into the spirit and full enjoyment of this "season of love," the first condition is to do what is in one's power to make it Christmas with all within one's reach. He who knows his neighbor is in want, and debarred from all means of sharing in any of the joys or privileges of so glorious a feast, and shuts his eyes to the fact, cannot be considered as ranking with those to whom the Herald Angels brought their Message of Peace, for it was to "Men of Good Will," and he is not of such.

Many advance the excuse that they do not know those who are most deserving of their charity and would willingly relieve bona fide poverty, the result of misfortune, while they hesitate to do so in respect of what they term hereditary or professional. Persons, thus in doubt, will find an easy solution of the matter by referring to the Rev. Father Martin Callaghan, almoner of the poor, at St. Patrick's Presbytery, as well as to the pastors of the other parishes, through whom none but the truly deserving receive either their recommendation or approbation.

IS THE VATICAN IN DANGER?

The extent to which the Anarchist movement is progressing amongst the masses of the population of the Eternal City is causing some mingling with regard to the priceless treasures contained in the Vatican. It is the folly of the present rulers of Italy, in trying to make their bankrupt country live up to the rank of a first rate power, that has brought on the present acute discontent among a people already impoverished and overtaxed. Nothing but a lightening of the burdens upon the tax-payer and a policy having for its object the cheapening of the food and necessities of the people, will remove the discontent which finds its natural expression in Anarchism.

But there is no indication that any such policy will be adopted; and the eyes of the hungry and atheistic mob are, it is stated, turned towards the Vatican, with its vast and unique collection of priceless treasures, the accumulation of centuries of Catholic devotion to the Holy See. For over a thousand years it has been the custom of foreign prelates and monarchs and princes visiting Rome to present costly gifts to the Vicar of Christ, not to speak of gifts of money, which are now called Peter's Pence. It is estimated that in 1888, when Leo XIII. celebrated his golden jubilee, the gifts he received in gold and jewels and other articles reached a value the total of which runs up into millions of dollars. The art treasures of the Vatican alone exceed many millions. In value indeed they are beyond a value fixed by money.

The Italian Government, we are glad to observe, is taking special measures to safeguard the approaches to the Vatican.

...of the Pope's palace, while the Pontifical guards and other officials have been put upon their guard. But the guardianship of the treasures of the Vatican ought not simply to be the care of Italian troops and Pontifical soldiers; it should be the care of the whole Catholic world.

THE DREYFUS AFFAIR.

Of course it possible—*tout est possible*, as our French friends say—that Captain Dreyfus may have been condemned for a crime of which he is innocent. But it should be borne in mind that the highest authorities in the French army, and all of the members of the court martial by which he was tried, have declared their belief that he did commit the crime of selling important military secrets to the German War Office. The Chamber of Deputies has also by a very large majority affirmed its conviction that the charge was fully proved.

The agitation now going on in the Paris press is, it should be remembered, the result of bribes paid for the purpose by a Jewish syndicate, who naturally desire to clear, if possible, the name of one of their co-religionists from the terrible stain of treachery of the worst description. Many of the leading news papers in the French capital are owned by Jews; and this also accounts for the vigor by which the movement for a new court-martial is being kept up.

It is not likely, however, that it will succeed; for, apart altogether from the merits of the case, the evidence in Paris, as in Vienna and Berlin, of a bitter anti-Semitic feeling on account of the undue prominence attained by Jews in the financial, political and journalistic world, together with the fact that a Jewish syndicate has been organized to bribe the press, will undoubtedly hurt the scheme. The corruption fund will defeat its own ends. Its establishment was an insult to French honor and French patriotism.

AN ATTEMPT TO DISFRANCHISE OUR PRIESTS.

A bill has been brought before the Legislature, by Dr. De Grosbois, which ought to meet with the strongest opposition at the hands of every Catholic member. Its aim is to disfranchise the clergymen of the whole province. Of course its provisions don't say so in so many words; but that would be the effect if it should become law. It provides that no one shall have a right to vote at provincial elections who is not qualified on taxable property, that is, that those who now qualify on religious property shall be deprived of their votes. Such a proposal is an insult to the Catholic priesthood, the sacredness of whose office and importance of whose services in the cause of social order and intellectual progress, to say nothing of their religious ministry, eminently entitle them to a voice in the direction of public affairs, without any such restriction as a property qualification. There is some consolation in the fact that, even if it should pass the Legislative Assembly, there is no chance of its passing the Legislative Council.

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS.

That the Catholic newspaper should be recognized by priests and laymen as a very powerful auxiliary to religion is a truth which is daily becoming more apparent. The subject has been so trite that it is almost a wearisomeness to refer to it again.

Its importance, however, is so great that further references to it are justified until both priests and laymen come to realize it in its entirety. How is it that Protestants support their press with such unflinching generosity? Because they take a personal interest in the dissemination of the different sectarian doctrines in which they believe. Nearly all their newspapers, in the United States as well as in Canada, thrive through becoming the organs, more or less pronounced, of a particular sect. Three out of the four daily English papers in Montreal are cases in point. And only a few days ago we read in an American newspaper that a sum of fifty thousand dollars had been voted by a Unitarian gathering for the maintenance of a representative organ in Boston. As our esteemed contemporary, the Catholic Standard and Times, of Philadelphia, pointedly says in referring to this incident:

Who ever heard of a Catholic gathering, or a Catholic individual, dreaming of taking such action? All speak magniloquently of the absolute necessity of such a press, the nobility of its mission, the immense responsibility of the men who should write for it, the need of judgment, boldness, polish, erudition, vigilance and indefatigable zeal for the sacred cause on the part of its editors. But when it comes to a question of ways and means, the spirit of diffidence which suddenly overtakes everybody is marvelous to behold. Pockets are closed as if by the automatic action of the morning glory and the sunflower, and Harpocrates, the god of silence, instantly lays his finger on the lips of the enthusiastic advocates. The phenomena, observable in our eccentric meteorology pervade our

...the trade winds... instantaneously to zero and the things blow over.

Indeed, to judge from the readiness with which the Catholic press is supported by those whose interests it champions, it seems excusable to doubt the sincerity of those who declare themselves to be its friends. One of the drawbacks from which the Catholic press in Canada suffers is a sort of timidity on the part of its publishers and directors; a fondness for remaining in the background, as if they were ashamed to be connected with it. We feel sure that if they held, for example, an annual conference and exchanged views on the subject of promoting their common interests, the outcome would be the creation of a spirit of greater enterprise, an increase in the circulation and influence of their journals, and the fostering of a sentiment of fraternity which could not fail to be of great value.

To the clergy in general, too, the Catholic press has a right to look for practical assistance. We have in this city and province an ample supply of beautiful and costly churches, which, thank God, are well filled on Sundays. But will they always be so thronged? Are not indifference and irreligion making progress amongst our young men? Is not the secular press full of dangerous doctrines and pernicious reading? Is it not the mission of the Catholic press to refute these doctrines, to counteract this pernicious reading, to keep alive the faith in the hearts and minds of our young men, to throng our churches with earnest congregations? And how can it efficiently fulfil this mission unless it enjoys the active co-operation of the clergy?

EDITORIAL NOTES.

BILLIARD parlors for women is the latest fad in Chicago. What next?

ONE of the results of the commemoration of the centenary of Edmund Burke, it is said, will be a competition annually for a Burke scholarship or a Burke medal, in the form of a lecture or essay on some given Irish theme, the competition to be open to students of every college in Ireland.

WHILE hundreds of surrounding buildings were laid low by the recent fire, historic St. Giles, where Cromwell was married and Milton lies buried, escaped with nothing worse than a scorching. Cromwell's memory probably owes it to the fire fiend's respect for Milton's ashes that the old church is left to tell he was married.

BONNIE SCOTLAND holds the record in the distillery interest of the United Kingdom, and its championship is not likely to be disturbed or even challenged for long years to come. She heads the list with 193 distilleries as against 29 in Ireland, 9 in England and 1 in Wales, or more than five times as many as in all these combined. A list of the names of the different brands would be an object lesson in Scottish history, personages and places.

MR. HENRY AUSTIN ADAMS, who lectured so acceptably in Montreal on several occasions last winter, has been winning golden opinions from the people of Chicago, where he recently made his debut. A writer in the New World says "he never saw an audience so completely captivated as that which listened to Mr. Adams on the occasion referred to." Some who had the privilege of hearing his spirited address before the patrons of the Montreal Free Library will fully appreciate the remarks in the New World.

SURVEYOR-GENERAL OGILVIE, who has just returned from the Yukon, says that in his opinion there is one hundred millions of dollars in sight in the district. This did not include what might be obtained by placer and quartz mining. The district was composed of 100,000 square miles and gold could be found all over it. The only thing necessary to have from 100,000 to 500,000 people in there was adequate transportation facilities. As to quartz mining, 12 miles up Klondike assays showed from \$100 to \$1,000 per ton.

THE Irish Catholic electors of St. Mary's ward have followed the example of their co-religionists in St. Antoine ward and adopted strongly worded resolutions protesting against the action of the Fire Committee in appointing a Scotch-Frenchman to an office which, by every right and custom, should have been filled by an Irish Catholic. We earnestly hope that Irish Catholics will not allow their efforts to cease, and that they will follow up their action by a vigorous opposition to the three aldermen who were the movers in this matter, by which the claims of the Irish Catholics were so flagrantly ignored.

The number of men and women with missions are abnormally on the increase. In point of fact, these people who think

...which they were brought into the world. The woman with a mission leaves her servant to perform her true mission while she exploits her aid. The man with a mission lets his wife earn the living for the family while he pursues his fad in some public house or lodge room. The time is coming when these nuisances will be suppressed.

THE Marquis Lorenzo Bottini, President of the Catholic Committee in Tuscany and proprietor of the *Esare*, one of the leading journals in that country, was recently admitted to audience by the Pope. His Holiness, in the course of conversation with him, was very pronounced in his views of the duty of Catholics to support the Catholic press, especially in these times, when there are so many Catholic interests to protect and promote. He was most emphatic in the expression of his views.

We have a treat in store for our readers next week, in the shape of a pathetic little story from the pen of Mrs. Frances Chadwick, of Ottawa, entitled "Bernard Mallory's Repentance." Mrs. Chadwick is a daughter of the famous Irish Catholic Novelist, Mrs. Sadlier, and has evidently inherited a goodly share of her mother's rare gifts. The story deals with a phase of human vanity and weakness which is but too often witnessed and which just such healthy sketches as this are most effective in checking. We thoroughly appreciate Mrs. Chadwick's interest in the *True Witness* in sending us this story and are sure it will prove very interesting to our, we are happy to say, increasing circle of readers.

If there is one body of men who have perfect faith in the prosperity of Montreal that body is the Montreal City Council. Either the members think that it is a second Klondike or that the citizens and property owners have discovered the great secrets of the transmutation of metals. Below will be found only a partial statement of what the various committees require for permanent improvements in their respective departments for the year 1898. Surely the aldermen must be having a little joke at the expense of the citizens, but all the same, if it is a joke it is very ill-timed:

Road Committee, 1898.....	\$690,000
Road Committee, 1899.....	240,000
Road Committee, 1900.....	240,000
Fire Committee.....	85,000
City Hall Committee.....	75,000
Markets Committee.....	44,300
Health Committee.....	72,000
Water Committee, 1898.....	499,560
Water Committee, 1899.....	350,258
Water Committee, 1900.....	349,000
Water Committee, 1901.....	373,400
Water Committee, 1902.....	382,827
Parks and Ferries Committee.....	2,250
Finance Committee.....	600,000
Light Committee.....	.....
Police Committee.....	.....
Mount Royal Park Committee.....	.....
Total.....	\$4,003,595

ACCORDING to medical statistics the morphia habit is very much on the increase. In a work recently published in Paris it is stated that Germany, France and the United States are the countries most addicted to the habit, but that it is also widely spread in Russia, Sweden and Turkey, and that even in the extreme East it is by no means uncommon. Statistics on the subject show that of the male morphia addicts the medical profession supplies the largest number, 40 per cent. Men of leisure come next, with 15 per cent; linen merchants, 8 per cent; while peasants, clergymen and politicians occupy the lowest positions on the list. Women of means are the most numerous class among the females, 43 per cent; followed by wives of medical men, 10 per cent. In Germany there are entire villages whose inhabitants are all addicted to the use of the drug, but the general belief that the morphia habit is more extensively practised in Paris than in any other city is contradicted. Morphinomania is said to occur with the greatest frequency between the ages of 25 and 40.

IN our last issue reference was made to the effort being made, notably by the clergy, to revive the study of the Irish language. The movement is not confined to these good gentlemen, as the following extract from the report for 1896-97 of the Queen's College, Cork, will show. In this the President, Sir Rowland Blennerhasset, Baronet, makes a plea for the establishment of a Celtic chair, and amongst other things, he says:

"The importance of Celtic from the point of view of comparative philology and of the history of early institutions is very considerable. This has been abundantly shown by the writings of O'Curry and Stokes, by D'Arbois Jubainville in the *College de France*, by Windisch in Leipzig, Thurnwaldsen in Freiburg, Zimmer in Griefswald."

No one would dare or wish to depreciate, or in any way to question, the splendid courage and dash of the Gordon Highlanders in the storming of Dargai ridge; yet the idea must not be allowed to prevail that the term

...the name of the Highland Irish figured largely on the list of casualties. Amongst the ten first brought in as seriously wounded was Patrick Hogan, who was quickly followed by Lance-Corporal Quinn and Private Ryan. The romance of the gallant piper, who, after both legs had been shot off, supported himself against a rock and kept on playing "The Cook of the North," till he fainted from loss of blood, may lose some of its interest for Scotchmen when it is stated that his name was not Donald McDonald McKenzie Macdougall, but plucky Patrick Milne, from Dublin town.

Monsignor Conarty, whose pulpit and platform utterances command such attention and exercise so much influence in the United States, lately addressed the Alumni of St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, selecting as his subject the "duties of citizenship." Amongst other things, he said:

"The Church in America demands the highest scholarship that the Gospel may be preached to the minds and the hearts seeking truth. The priest is called in our American life to be a leader of goodness in public as well as private life, that men may be led to the true religion of Jesus Christ and thus become good Christians and good citizens. The great questions of religious, political and social life must be studied and answered. The Church cannot afford to be wrong on any public question which affects the social and moral well-being of the nation. We are priests and citizens, priests of the great American Church of Christ and citizens of this great Republic. Let us be loyal to both, and thus prove our loyalty to God and country."

THE steps taken by Messrs. Chapt Freres to have defrauding debtors punished in Quebec in the same way as they are punished in Ontario, are said to be bearing good fruit, the Attorney-General having announced his intention to amend the law in this direction, the Retail Grocers' Association, of which Mr. John Scanlan is president, having sent him a petition asking for the change. What is desired is not to punish the honest debtor who cannot pay his debts, but to punish the fraudulent debtor who is able but unwilling to pay what he owes.

THE Chief Justice, Lord Killowen, on opening the present sittings in the Court of Queen's Bench, London, made a feeling reference to the death of the late Mr. Baron Pollock, ending his address in these words:—"Baron Pollock died like a soldier, at his post, and there are many who will reverently and affectionately and prayerfully say, 'Requiescat in pace.'"

THE marble industry of Carrara, through the pressure of taxation under the present government of Italy, it is not unlikely, will receive a fatal blow. The quarry owners recently met and resolved to close all the works in connection with them, unless measures were adopted to diminish the exactions on personal property, so, at any rate, as to exclude marble and marble works.

EIGHTEEN years ago, it is said, there were 39,000 Irishmen in the British army, while at present there are only 25,000.

THE CRISIS IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

In addition to the sources of friction which have grown up of late years between Austria and Hungary, there is now added a difficulty that may result in the total rupture of the constitutional ties that at present hold the dual monarchy together. This has arisen out of the demand of the Bohemian Nationalists that their language—the Czech tongue—shall be placed upon the same official footing as that of the dominant Austrian Germans.

To this the Austrian Germans, between whom and the Czechs there has ever existed a sort of racial feud, strenuously object; and so strong has been this opposition that not only has the Austrian Premier, who proposed to accede to the demand of the Bohemians, been obliged to withdraw the measure, but he has been forced to resign, the result being that the bill maintaining the status quo between Austria and Hungary for another year is in danger of being rejected.

The whole trouble is due to the arrogance of the German element, who, though in an actual minority, have managed to occupy a position of ascendancy for a very long period. After an eclipse of two centuries there has, since 1817, been a notable revival of the language, literature and nationality of the Czechs or Slavs of Bohemia.

The culmination of this revival was the demand of the Bohemians to have their mother tongue officially recognized, and the decision of the Prime Minister of the Empire to grant a request made with a determination and

...how-... the ruling... as the... who seem... rather than that the Czechs should receive justice.

It will take all the well-known tact and prudence of the Emperor Francis Joseph, to bring about a peaceable solution of the difficulty. In the meantime Irish-Canadians will watch the developments of the crisis with interest, their sympathies being of course with the Bohemian Nationalists, who have right and justice on their side.

THE RENEWAL OF THE MISSION

At St. Patrick's Church, Preparatory to the Grand Feast of Christmas.

The Married Women Concluded Their Week of Preparation—The Single Women Now Attending the Exercises in Thousands—Next Sunday Evening the Stalwarts of the Parish, Young and Old, Will Commence Their Week of Spiritual Work.

St. Patrick's Church is the centre today of one of the most successful Missions ever held in the City of Montreal. It is not actually a Mission, but a renewal of the good resolutions made during the grand Missions of last Lent, which will be remembered as long as the present generation of the parish lives.

The Fathers who are conducting the Mission are Rev. Father Delargy, CSS R., Superior in charge; Rev. Father White, Rev. Father Lynch, Rev. Father Gannon, and Rev. Father Hespeler. These noble Redemptorists have labored with zeal, and their efforts from the commencement of the series, which opened last week, have shown that the congregation of St. Patrick's are always faithful.

The Mission to married women closed on Sunday last and the attendance from the very beginning was good. The exercises for single women opened on the same evening and the church which seats so many thousands was crowded to the very doors.

It was a glorious sight to witness the crowds of young women filing into the church until the very aisles were filled with the eager worshippers. It was a matter of congratulation to Rev. Father Quinlivan and his colleagues that the Mission of last Lent received such a ready response on its renewal so many months later.

It was, indeed, an object lesson to watch, as the representative of the *True Witness* did, the band of devoted women pouring out of the church, to be succeeded by their sisters in single life. The married women of St. Patrick's were fully represented. It was estimated that fully seventy-five per cent. of the mothers of the families of the parish listened day after day to the words of the Redemptorist Fathers, finally crowning the week's devotion with the happy privilege of receiving the Body of Our Lord.

HOLLAND'S QUEEN

THE HAGUE, Dec. 8.—Wilhelmina, the Queen of the Netherlands, will take the oath of accession to the throne on September 6, 1898, in the new church at Amsterdam.

Wilhelmina Helena Paulina Maria, Queen of the Netherlands, was born on August 31, 1880. Her father was the late King William III., and her mother, the King's second wife, Princess Emma, daughter of Prince George Victor of Waldeck. The young queen succeeded to the throne on the death of her father, on November 23, 1890. Her mother was proclaimed Queen regent during the minority of the Queen, on November 20, 1890.

Here is an item of news which might be commended to the consideration of the Editor of the *Quebec Daily Telegraph*:—"The report of the South Carolina State Solicitor states that there were two hundred murders committed in that State, in 1896—a large increase over the number perpetrated the previous year. The clergyman of all denominations in the state have been asked to set aside Sunday, the 19th of this month, as a day on which sermons shall be delivered on the sacredness of human life and the heinousness of murder."