



EDITORIAL NOTES.

In our last issue, in referring to the piano so kindly donated by Mr. L. E. N. Pratte, Notre Dame Street, to the Villa Maria Bazaar, we mentioned that it was a "Hazleton" make. We have since learned that it was a "Pratte" piano. We make the correction, firstly, because it is only fair to Mr. Pratte to let it be known that the magnificent instrument for which the Shamrocks and Nationals contended was of his own make; and secondly, because we believe that there is no better piano in Canada than the "Pratte."

It is our very pleasant duty to announce the promotion of Mr. P. C. Shannon to the important office of Secretary-Treasurer of the Dominion Cotton Mills Company. Mr. Shannon is an Irish Catholic and has always been recognized as one of the clever young men engaged in commercial affairs. Perseverance, industry and honesty of purpose have won for him a new place of distinction, and we congratulate him, as we believe he is the right man in the right place and one who will discharge his duty with credit to the Company and honor to himself.

The month of December, which we are commencing, is one that contains some very important Catholic feasts. On the third was the feast of St. Francis Xavier, and to-day, the fifth, is that of St. Chrysologus; Saturday, the eighth, is the Immaculate Conception; the twenty-first is that of St. Thomas the apostle; the twenty-fifth is Christmas; the twenty-sixth is the feast of St. Stephen, the proto-martyr; the twenty-seventh that of St. John the Apostle; the twenty-eighth, the celebration of the Holy Innocents; the twenty-ninth the feast of St. Thomas of Canterbury; and the thirty-first, the day consecrated to St. Sylvester. It is truly a festive season in more senses than the generally accepted one for that term.

A NEW FIRM has been established on Lagauchetiere street. The members are "dealers and importers and exporters of teas, groceries and all kinds of Chinese merchandise." As it might be of deep interest to our readers to know who the members of this firm are, we will furnish the list. We give their names—in full—with the firm name, which is "Wing Chong Long & Co." The company is well established and is composed of the following Chinese gentlemen: Goon Hoy You, Fong Man King, Wong Hing, Wong Sam, Wong Sing, Wong Com, Wong Chong, Wong Dock, Fong Goo, Wong Funn, Fong Goo, Fong Com, Goo Tung, Goo Quong, Goo You, Goo Com, Wong You, Fong Dock, Wong...

One of Italy's freethinking journals—L'Italia del Popolo—admits that Leo XIII. is an Italian worthy of being called a statesman. It claims that this is due to his influence upon pub-

lic opinion, and that, deprived of temporal power, it is extraordinary what that influence has become. We agree with that organ, and we wonder that the Italian government would not allow such a statesman—as it admits Leo to be—to enjoy an opportunity of exercising his genius for the good of the world in general and of Italy in particular. Just let the temporal power be restored, and the age will then have some real conception of what the Sovereign Pontiff is capable of performing.

THEY say that the Island of St. Helena is the smallest diocese in the world. The Bishop of the diocese has jurisdiction over three priests. There was a time, however, when that diocese contained one man, who in his day of glory dictated to Europe. What a lasting monument, that coral upheaval in the bosom of the Atlantic. It may be small, but the historic associations that cluster around its rocks—even as the sea-birds that collect there—render it a mighty important domain.

THE London Spectator, discussing the works of Froude, speaks of a certain number of popular writers whose works are soon forgotten, and in the category the learned journal places Moore. We don't see that any reply to this is necessary. In fact the answer is to be heard in every land. Go to any concert where English songs or melodies are sung; go to almost any *salon* in London or New York; go where you please, all the world over, and you will meet with Moore, immortalized in his undying productions. It is queer how some critics imagine because they do not read certain works nor admire certain writers it necessarily follows that the rest of the world is like them.

ANOTHER Montrealer has become distinguished abroad. His Holiness, Leo XIII., has nominated the Very Rev. Father Mayer as Bishop Coadjutor for the Archdiocese of Madras. Father Mayer is a native of Montreal, and was born here on the 15th August, 1850. He was ordained in London, on the 3rd December, 1876, and arrived at Madras in the following January. He spent the whole of his clerical life in Madras, and the work that he performed, as well as the great administrative ability which he displayed, connected with his remarkable virtues, combined to secure his elevation to the high position which he will now occupy. Montreal extends its congratulations to her successful son.

THE Kiltaining Free Press says:—"The ringing of the Catholic bell for an hour on Monday recalled to our citizens that the 8th October is the birthday of John Gilpin, Esq., deceased." It appears that Mr. Gilpin—who is not to be confounded with his famous namesake, who rode from Ware to Edmonton and back—was a member of the Armstrong County bar. He left \$100 to the Catholic Church on condition that its bell should ring on each anniversary of his birth.

He was a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Why he left the bequest to the Catholic Church in preference to his own, no person can imagine. It is likely that on the condition of \$100 for an hour's ringing once each year, Mr Gilpin's birthday will be long remembered in that locality. It is also remarkable that he did not ask to have the bell tolled on the anniversary of his death. Evidently—like Cowper's hero—

"John Gilpin was a citizen
Of credit and renown."

UNDER the heading "The Land of the De Profundis," Rev. M. Russell, S.J., has the following in the Irish Monthly. Indeed it is well deserving of careful consideration, for the little paragraph contains a vast amount of truth regarding the Irish people:

"I have heard of a pious English priest who objected to the 129th psalm being called the De Profundis in a popular publication; he thought the simple reader would know it better as Out of the Depths. That would certainly not be the case in Ireland. In Ireland, from time immemorial this psalm is recited after every mass by the priest at the foot of the altar. The trials and perils through which Irish Catholics preserved the Faith during all the Penal days made them secure at least this commemoration of the faithful departed as requiem masses and anniversaries could not be celebrated at these troubled times. I know not, and probably no one knows, when the liturgy of the Holy Sacrifice received in Ireland this addition, which entitles her to be called the Land of the De Profundis."

ONE of the first cares of Nicholas II. was to send a cordial and respectful despatch to the Pope to announce that he had ascended the throne. Leo XIII. replied in an equally cordial manner and wished the new Czar a happy reign. Whether this homage of the young Czar to the Pope is merely a formality, or a diplomatic move or not, it is an evidence to the world of the great esteem in which the Pope is held by the heads of the different nations. It is very strange that insignificant men presume to ridicule the Vicar of Christ while the most important personages are paying tribute to him. Some silly A. P. Aist will strut about, express his disdain for the grandest character of the age, while the most potent rulers are bowing down in homage before the immortal prisoner of the Vatican. To abuse the Pope is the positive index of a narrow mind, an ignorant brain, and an insignificant character. The mists from the swamps may hide the sun's rays for a few moments from the eyes of the inhabitants of the malaria-haunted regions, but the mists do not approach even within millions of miles the luminary itself.

It has been decided in Toronto that the Canadian Government cannot punish bigamists when the second marriage takes place in the United States. Probably a similar decision would be given in the United States, when the second marriage is celebrated in Canada. "C'est

magnifique, mais ce n'est la guerre"—it is law but certainly it is not justice. If such be the law the Court is obliged to interpret it as it is found in the statute-book; but we pity the legislators who so arranged the law. Bigamy is not only a crime against the law of God but it is an act of cruel wrong perpetrated against wife, children, and other members of society. We believe that there should exist some international law to deal with such cases. This is the natural outcome of a lax standard regarding the sacrament of marriage. Until the teaching of Catholicity on this sacrament obtains there can be little safety in the domestic world; divorce, on the one hand, like the sword of Damocles, suspended by a thread over the spouse, and the possibility of bigamy with impunity, on the other. Soon a generation will be seeking for the old homes and firesides, and will find but desolation and ashes to tell that once happy families did exist—in the days when the marriage tie was respected and marriage was a sacrament and not a mere civil contract.

There is a movement on foot to secure a monument in Quebec to the brave General Richard Montgomery, who met his death while attempting to capture the city, on the 31st December, 1775. Whether the necessary permission will be granted to the American gentlemen interested to place such a monument in the old city or not, is more than we can say. Of course Montgomery was the commander of an army that invaded Canada; it could not be expected, therefore, that Canadian authorities would take the initiative in the matter. But nearly one hundred and nineteen years have gone since then, and surely the distance of time is sufficiently great to soften the memories of a period of conflict, and to display to the future only the grand characteristics of the heroic general. While it might seem strange were Canadians to erect the monument, still when the steps are taken by Montgomery's fellow-countrymen, it would be a graceful and deserving act were the permission to be spontaneously accorded. Besides, as Irishmen, we must feel proud of that grand soldier, and as citizens of the world we cannot forget that in private life Montgomery was as exemplary as he was noble in public life. His was a rich character, and one that deserves a fitting commemoration.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark, the pro Cathedral Church of the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, and which has been for half a century the Metropolitan Church for England, was consecrated three weeks ago. It is an inflexible rule of the Catholic Church that no place of worship may be consecrated till every cent of debt on the building may be paid. Of course the place of worship may be blessed, and divine service held therein; but it is only consecrated when clear of all debt. This is the reason why the Metropolitan Church of England has remained unconsecrated for fifty years.