



PRECEDING ARTICLES.—Major Girouard, September 15; Hon. Wm. Mulock, September 22; His Lordship Bishop Houl, September 29; Mr. W. J. Gage and Mr. Louis Herbert, October 6; Hon. Jas. Sutherland, October 13; Mr. Chas. R. Hosmer, October 20; Lieut.-Col. Geo. T. Denton, October 27; Principal Grant, November 3; Professor Goldwin Smith, November 10; Dr. Jas. Stewart, November 17; Mr. Geo. Gooderham, November 24; Sir W. C. Macdonald and Lord Methuen, December 1.

ARCHBISHOP BRUCHESI.

A STRONG soul, zealous, beneficent, firm—fit words in which one might describe the wielder of the Episcopal regis in our metropolitan city. The visitor to the Palace meets no patriarchal prelate in the white winter of his age; nor an austere, distant personage, enshrouded and bedimmed in the holy dignity of his office. As he waits in an ante-room, a quick, light, eager step comes along the hallway, and His Grace appears—a youthful man, whose genial radiance of face bespeaks a happy life well lived. The characteristic of gentle-



ARCHBISHOP BRUCHESI.

ness is imprinted upon every line of that countenance, and on each movement of the slender frame. Confidence immediately succeeds his salutation. His handshake is not rendered meaningless by the accompanying air which says, "I hope your business is not long. You have bothered me," but expresses rather the interest of one who feels he may be of some service to a friend.

Though harassed by the continued worry of innumerable appeals, and immersed at the moment in the settlement of a trying legal issue, time can be spared to greet an absolute stranger, to sit down beside him and ascertain what mission may be his. The stranger is an ignoramus; and, not enlightened by the purple robe, he explains that he has been waiting to see the Archbishop. "Well, I am the Archbishop," smilingly replies His Grace, not one whit offended at so heedless a mistake. What a delightful transformation some of us

would undergo were we but gifted with thus much sense of humor!

Well has he been likened to his spiritual father, Pope Leo. Such a lover of peace as the aged monarch at the Vatican could hardly find a man more after his own heart; and the public commendation bestowed upon Monseigneur Bruchesi on the occasion of his allocution, by the Church's Head at Rome, testifies to the oneness of the high ideal which animates them both. Protestant ministers have characterized this address to the people at large as nothing less than apostolic, and the writer of the same a true apostle.

Perhaps no other position in the Province calls for such nicety of judgment, or such peculiar power of purpose as the Archbishopric of Montreal. All eyes revert thither—on the one hand of those who look for the rule and direction of their lives, and on the other of those whose gaze is always critical if not exactly hostile. But of the public utterances which emanate from the Palace, there are none to which the veriest fanatic would be liable to take exception. His Grace's edicts invariably reflect the gentle firmness of a father who speaks not to be gainsaid, combined with and guarded by a delicacy of wise discretion which unarms objection or even criticism from without. This, of a man who is frequently called upon, from the nature of the place he holds, to pronounce upon questions pertaining to the life of the community as a whole, marks him not only as a brave and politic leader, but evidences him one of those strong pivot points from which disseminates the influence that purifies, invigorates and blesses the circling progress of our everyday existence.

Nor does the Archbishop shrink from taking generous part, where possible, in public schemes of benevolent or educational import. Those who worked with him in committee at the time of the Jubilee have expressed the appreciation they felt of the value which his counsel and ability afforded. In 1893, it was to him that the Province of Quebec intrusted the preparation of its educational exhibits for the World's Fair at Chicago, and for many years he was chairman of the Catholic School Board of Montreal. The kindly attitude he always assumed toward members of the press was responsible for the unanimous congratulation he received from every section of that body when he became successor to Mgr. Fabre. His reply, in which he stated the aims he hoped to make his own, and the end toward which he would ever strive, and at the same time his wariness of the position he held in relation to other bodies, was simply inimitable, and awoke echoes throughout the country and beyond it which reverberated with admiration and respect.

Twice, recently, his actions have formed the subject of discussion; firstly, concerning the prohibition of bazaars, and next, his declination to act in conjunction with other organizations in the matter of a central bureau for charitable purposes. Both instances are typical of man and method. The stopping of bazaars has conferred a grateful benefit on the citizens. Besides the wise provision against certain evils connected with too frequent entertainments, kept up until late hours, and so forth, which was one of the principal reasons for the step, merchants have secured partial relief, at least, from a system almost amounting to blackmail. For, though His Grace disclaimed any such idea, and was loth to believe that such agencies harmed trade in any way, there is no doubt that such is the case to some extent. As regards his decision that it would be impossible for him to act with the committee of the central bureau at present, his letter published some days ago amply vindicates the position he took, and places him in the right. The committee recognize this.

Mgr. Bruchesi's presence is academic, one would be inclined to say, rather than priestly. The years of professorial work in Laval have left their undeniable traces. A great student, he would at any time rather read than eat or sleep, which circumstance may account in measure for a tolerant broad-mindedness not common in so young a man. The very warmest personal friendships are his, and the kindness that beams from his eyes constitutes not merely part of that natural animal temperament for which none of us can claim especial credit, but is the reflexion of a heart that beats in response to the pulse of humanity.

J. S. M.