

TESTIS IN CÆLO FIDELIS

The Witness

AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

VOL. XLIII, NO. 47.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 1894

PRICE 5 CENTS.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

BESIDES being the month of the Sacred Heart, June contains many important feasts. To-day is that of the great St. Anthony of Padua; on the 21st we have the feast of good St. Aloysius; on the 24th the great religious—and for French-Canadians the great national—feast of St. John the Baptist; on the 29th the double celebration of Saints Peter and Paul takes place. Truly it is a month of great rejoicings. Quite a number of eminent bishops will observe the anniversaries of their respective consecrations during the remainder of June. It is a month of light, warmth, and flowers—a month therefore of Faith, Charity and Hope.

TWO American pilgrimages to Lourdes, in France, will take place this summer. The first goes from Brooklyn, N.Y., in the end of June; the second will go from Montreal, by the "Vancouver," on 20th July next. Rev. Canon Racicot will conduct the latter. Surely Emile Zola will feel that his blasphemous and miserable novel "Lourdes" has fallen flat. Compared with the faith of Catholics, who are ready to cross the Atlantic and face the dangers of the deep, to honor the Blessed Mother of God at her shrine of Lourdes, the infidelity of the writer is miserable and his honors are poor and perishable.

LIMERICK—the city of the broken treaty—has granted on more than one occasion "the liberty of the city" to personages whose great services in the cause of Ireland deserved special recognition. In 1848, when Meagher, Smith O'Brien and Terrence Bellew McManus were awaiting trial at the Clonmel Assizes, and while on bail for a short time, they paid a visit to Limerick, and Thomas Francis Meagher received the "liberty of the city" from the people, while the government was doing its utmost to limit his liberty to a prison cell, or a felon's grave. Forty years later, outside the Thomond gate, the "liberty of the city" was offered to Parnell, just as another government was seeking to lodge him in a gaol, as a reward for his gigantic efforts on behalf of the Irish people. Again, the other day, Limerick had done itself honor, in presenting the "liberty of the city" to the Countess of Aberdeen, in recognition of that noble lady's great endeavors to bring prosperity into the land and to kindle the spark of hope in the bosom of the nation.

THERE is quite a sensation in the New York high circles over the recently announced conversion of a number of adult members of the "Four Hundred" to the Catholic faith. The ceremony took place in the West Seventeenth street convent. It is considered a great privilege to be confirmed in this convent chapel, and it is granted only on rare occasions. Among those who enjoyed that privilege were:—Mr. and Mrs. Chauncy W. Floyd-Jones, Mrs. Ben-

venidas, Mrs. Anna S. Arnold, Mrs. Brennan, Mrs. Furlong, Mrs. W. M. Holley, Miss Frances Holley, Miss Huberman, Miss Roche and Mrs. Marie, all converts. Mr. Floyd-Jones was the only gentleman who received the sacrament present, and he enjoys the distinction of being the first man confirmed in the convent. He owed this to the fact of his wife being with him and that he made his first communion there. Nearly all the adult converts who received confirmation were received into the church by the Jesuit Fathers of St. Francis Xavier's.

It seems to us very strange that some people are so religious, so exceedingly sanctimonious, that they would deem it a sin to take a drive on Sunday; they would rather see the sick, the lame and the aged walk (or else stay at home) than allow them a street car to go to church; they would consider it an unpardonable crime to play a game of cards in their own parlor on a Sunday night; yet the same people will read Zola's filthy stories, and hold up the author of such abominations as a model for their children to study. He is an artist, a deep thinker, and his works are profound in the eyes of these great and holy people. Give us practical Christianity and not mere sentimentality; we want good common sense and not the cloak of the Pharisees:

THE Indiana Baptist says:—"We have stood, and we stand, for the supremacy of the Bible as against human reason and the church."

The Catholic Advocate, commenting, says: "If human reason is to be excluded in the consideration of the Bible, then the Sacred Book was intended for madhouses." If our readers will pay a special attention to the subject of "individual interpretation," they will soon find that it is at variance with human reason—in fact that the whole basis of Protestantism is illogical and unreasonable. We would not say that the Bible was intended for madhouses; but we do contend that the vain attempts of thousands to understand—by their own lights—the Word of God, have helped considerably to fill the madhouses.

WE CONGRATULATE the St. Mary's College Cadets on their magnificent and successful efforts in last Friday's competition for the Duke of Connaught's banner. Not only is the fact of their winning last year and retaining this year the standard most satisfactory, but the high praise they received, from men competent to judge in military matters, must be very encouraging. In fact it has been stated that they surpass any volunteer company in the city. The Witness, in commenting on the subject, says that if the students are as proficient in other matters as in drill, they will be good citizens. We can assure the Witness that drill is only a secondary branch in the curriculum of St. Mary's, and that these young men are as excellent in their

study hall and classes as they are on the Champ de Mars. We have also to congratulate the Mount St. Louis College Cadets, for if they did not carry off the banner, it was not due to any lack of ability in their instructor and commanders, nor to any fault on their part. It is simply a matter of circumstances. Some one company had to get the standard; and judging from their splendid effort this year we would not be surprised to find the Mount St. Louis boys carrying off the trophy another year.

AFFLICTION! We all have afflictions at times—some more, some less. But, in the hour when they come, if we remember that at the same moment there are millions of others worse off than ourselves in the world, we will accept them as God's blessings in disguise. They serve to curb the will, to check the inclinations, to destroy pride, to temper success, and to confirm us in a necessary humility—in the recognition of the fact that we are nothing ourselves, and all the good we do is merely the result of God's goodness and his permission. There are some troubles that apparently nothing in this world can ever alleviate; but even the worst of them can be repaired in eternity. In fact it is there that they will one day be righted and compensated for.

THE ST. PATRICK'S BAZAAR closes to-day. It has been one of the most successful and most enthusiastically patronized that Montreal has had in long years. The object appealed to every person; the embellishment and painting of the old temple so dear to thousands of our citizens. The efforts made by Rev. Father Quinlivan and the energetic priests of St. Patrick's deserved the highest meed of success. The ladies have earned the gratitude of the whole congregation for the able and happy manner in which they carried on the work. Father James Callaghan's Bazaar Journal was a real triumph—thanks to the untiring zeal of its talented editor. And we must add that the thanks of the Catholic community are due to the hundreds of Protestant friends who so generously contributed. In a word, the results have been far beyond expectation, and we may expect before long to behold the tangible benefits of the grand event in the decoration of St. Patrick's Church—the cherished shrine of Irish Catholic devotion.

SPEAKING of Protestant generosity reminds us of a characteristic story told of a certain parish priest in the diocese of Ottawa. The old Presbyterian Church of the town had become too dilapidated for further use, and the congregation had become too large for the small edifice. The minister desired to tear down the old church and build a new one. A subscription list was set in circulation, and as the very best of feelings existed between Catholics and Protestants in that village, the minister called on the priest for a donation. "My

good friend," said the priest, "it is against the rules of our Church to contribute to the building of an heretical temple—I dare not give anything, no matter how willing to oblige you." The poor minister felt sorry he had called when suddenly a bright idea came to the priest. "I won't give a cent to the building of your new church," said the kind-hearted old man, "but here are twenty dollars to defray the expenses of tearing down the old one." The minister went off rejoicing, and till this day the same good feeling and harmony exist in that community.

A FRIEND writes to know the date of the battle of Carrick-Shock. We cannot give the exact date, but it was some time in the summer of 1829. It was not a battle exactly; rather an uprising. It originated in the south of Tipperary. In the vicinity of Clonmel the plans were laid for the excursion that culminated in the Carrick-Shock affair. From Waterford there were a few who went; from Carrick-on-Suir, from Pill town, from the Glen of Aherlow, from Golden and other places a number joined in the movement. When all was over and some of the participants were tried for their lives, Daniel O'Connell, then in the plenitude of his power and midday of his career, defended them and won liberty for them. If later on, if we can come upon copies of O'Connell's addresses at the time, we will find the date and give it. The whole event was recorded in the Clonmel and Cork papers, and as late as 1847 or 1849. Dr. Cahill wrote a letter upon the subject that appeared in the Nation.

THROUGHOUT Canada and the United States there are numerous very ably written Catholic organs that too often remain unrecognized, simply because they are not published in large central places. Yet they have none the less all the merit of some of the oftener quoted journals. Take for example the Antigonish Casket; there is a publication coming from a comparatively small town by the sea, and consisting of only four pages per week, yet it is truly a casket of gems. Its tone is so true, its spirit so thoroughly Catholic, its selections so choice, and its editorials so well written, that when our load of weekly exchanges is laid upon our table, the first thing we do is to look if the Casket is there; and if it is to pull it out and read it at once. A glass of pure water is better for the thirsty man than a barrel full of more or less adulterated liquid. The former invariably applies to the Casket; the latter may be often used as a comparison for some of the twenty-four and thirty-two paged newspapers of our day.

The Christian Brothers of St. Ann's schools will hold the mid-summer examinations on or about the 27th inst. The boys and the Brothers are working hard to attain a good result. After the examination the usual entertainment and exhibition of the year's class work will take place.