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WEDNESDAY.....MAY 12, 1897.

O'CONNELL.

Irishmen of Montreal will have their hearts touched by the jubilee of O'Connell's death. It is nearly a quarter century already since we did honor to the centennial anniversary of his birth. Some of us may be able to recall the time when the mournful news caused profound sorrow on both sides of the Atlantic. It was a year of sorrow, as we know, for the Irish of the Old Land and of the New World. Indeed, deeply as the Irish race had reason to deplore the loss of O'Connell, the hand of affliction weighed so heavily upon them at that time that countless private bereavements robbed the death of the Liberator of some of the importance that belonged to it. Another circumstance mitigated the sense of loss in the minds of the thousands for whom O'Connell had toiled and fought so long. Politically his day was ended before the night closed around him. Duffy and Dillon and Davis and the other adherents of the Young Ireland party had captured the hearts of the bolder spirits, and, though at first the Nation supported O'Connell and published contributions from his pen, he soon saw clearly and not without natural bitterness that his influence, if not his popularity, was doomed. He who had been accustomed to unhesitating obedience now saw his utterances and actions criticized by young men who had been children when he won his greatest triumphs. O'Connell had, indeed, his revenge, but in that revenge his own cause suffered no less than that of his rivals. Neither did he live to see the retribution that overtook those who rejected his advice and followed, with headstrong obstinacy, the path against which he warned them.

The Young Ireland movement, conceived and carried out by men of true patriotism, of dauntless courage, having the vision of the past and the spirit of the soldier, was destined to have results that far transcended the mere matter-of-fact records of the contemporary historian. The songs of the Nation, had it yielded nothing else, wrought a revolution wherever the chiefs and followers of the broken and scattered band found a refuge. They gained the sympathy of thousands who had never troubled themselves before with Ireland's grievances. And, although the leaders of the movement outgrew, for the most part, the warlike fervor that had led them to abjure O'Connell's safer and more fruitful plan of agitation, none of them forgot the land of their love, and even in exile the able Young Ireland champions found opportunities of advocating her rights and of rendering her real service. Smith O'Brien, Martin, Meagher, Mitchell—in devotion to their country these men were as passionate as O'Connell himself. It fell to Sir Gavan Duffy to write the history of the movement, and one of his faithful friends found a home and a reputation in Canada.

The events that intervened between the disruption of the physical force party of 1848 and the centennial of O'Connell's birth were of two kinds. There was on the one hand a somewhat feeble attempt at the amelioration of the condition of the Irish tenant and this was followed by another movement of which Canada had indirectly a share of the excitement. On the other hand, there was, on the part of really earnest Irishmen, a feeling that without persistent agitation in Parliament no boon worth having would be secured. In the organization conceived by Isaac Butt in 1869, and which Parnell was afterwards to strengthen and extend, this aspiration had its fulfillment. It labored under great drawbacks, including false friends as well as open enemies, but, notwithstanding, it won great victories. Then arose divisions with no man strong enough or trusted enough to restore harmony and reconquer lost ground. Oh! if only we

had an O'Connell in his prime to raise a voice of power that would quell all the factions and rivalries that postpone the day of promise! It is when we look around us to day, or when we look back over the fifty years that have passed away since he met his death in a strange city that we realize O'Connell's greatness. The efforts to belittle his gifts and character have failed as they deserved. He was a true son of Ireland, a true Celtic leader, a genuine orator with all the old Gaelic passion of conviction, an obedient child of Mother Church, a man of genius, and, what is still greater, a man of principle. For this reason his words had weight both with the multitude, with the common-sense hearers of the British Parliament, and with those select circles that weigh the meanings of words and put an estimate on style. O'Connell was not only rarely gifted; he was a patriot and a great man, and if to-day there is any native of Ireland or descendant of Irishmen that withholds honor from his memory, he is unworthy of the name he bears and of so illustrious a compatriot.

THE "NATION'S" WRATH.

That the name of the Dublin Nation should be associated with utterances such as the comments on Irish immigration to Canada that appear in that paper's issue of the 1st inst., is sadly significant. It is a pity that newspaper writers, dealing with serious questions, should ever take pen in hand without some knowledge of their subject. But such ignorance as the writer in the matter has displayed concerning Canada is a surprise.

The Nation says that Manitoba is "a kind of Siberia!" It is growing weather for only three months in the year; that there are no markets and therefore no prices for agricultural produce, no manufactures and industries. Would it not be well for the Nation to ascertain whether these stale slanders are based on anything more than hearsay or prejudice before giving them a place in its columns. That any newspaper office in the United Kingdom can be so poorly provided with books of reference as to leave its editors without the means of avoiding such mistakes we cannot believe. What the Nation says of the religious condition of Manitoba is more excusable, and those who sent Messrs. Devlin and O'Kelly to Ireland cannot wonder if their school policy has caused misconceptions even as to the social situation in the prairie provinces. But the Nation's account of that situation is so exaggerated as to be a mere travesty of the truth. The doings of designing politicians have not yet, happily, caused a state of war between Catholics and Protestants in any part of Canada. It is true that in Manitoba the Protestants are in a large majority and it is also true that, instigated by a wicked agitation introduced from without for ends of personal revenge, they have behaved ungenerously to their Catholic fellow-citizens. But the Catholics are not without friends among Protestants—even in Manitoba—nor is their case by any means so hopeless as the Nation represents. As for the ministrations of religion, we cannot conceive how the Nation could have ventured on such a statement as that in some districts no Mass was said for six months. Such an assertion is an outrageous slander on the Archbishop of Saint Boniface, his zealous clergy and their predecessors for three generations. The Nation need not fear that in Manitoba the sick or the dying among the Irish immigrants will be denied the ministrations of the priest. As for the parallel that the Nation has instituted between Manitoba and Ireland of the penal laws, thank God, it is utterly without foundation. Catholic worship is in the Dominion as free as air, and, as it happens, the Church's only assailants at this moment are, we regret to say, to be found among professing Catholics. The document sent to Rome inveighing against the interference of the clergy in politics was, to their shame be it said, the work of men who profess allegiance to the Church and some of whom have in the past been loud in the defence of the Church's liberties.

We await with some anxiety the reply of Messrs. Devlin and O'Kelly to the onslaught of the Dublin Nation. We hope that those gentlemen will obtain authority to assure that journal that the condition of things in Manitoba which it has so grossly exaggerated will soon have disappeared by the restoration of the status quo. We are not of those who, out of partizan zeal, are willing that Canada should be misrepresented. Why does not the Nation raise its voice against the long depopulation of Ireland for the benefit of the United States? And why does the Nation forget the kindly treatment that Irish immigrants have always received in Canada from their fellow-Irishmen who had the means of helping them? Those whom Messrs. Devlin and O'Kelly may induce to seek a new home in Canada will, the Nation may be sure, receive the best advice, sympathy and help, and they will have no reason to regret the step they take. Emigration there is always, whatever the Nation may do to prevent it. Surely Canada has some right to a share of that emigration.

A CANADIAN "CENTRE."

The Review of St. Louis has taken up the suggestion of the Verité of Quebec, that the Catholics of Canada form a Centrist party, after the model of the German Centre. Our Quebec contemporary is of opinion that, in that way, the Bishops would be relieved of the reproach of mixing in politics. There are certain questions, such as that of the Separate schools, which, being religious, the Bishops cannot neglect without incurring the risk of leaving their flocks without a safe guide. But whatever course they may take is utilized by some party for its own aims—mainly the attainment of power—and thus the Bishops are open to the charge of interfering in politics, which was in no wise their intention. "If," urges the Verité, "we had a Catholic Centre party, composed of thoroughly disinterested men who would willingly renounce the hope of personal recompense, and would bind themselves not to accept the advantages of power—the Bishops could by means of this disinterested group act efficiently on political ground without arousing recrimination, jealousy, hatred. There would not be even the semblance of a pretext for accusing them of favoring the material interests of one party to the detriment of the other."

The Review finds this argument clear and convincing and thinks it must make a strong impression on every Canadian Catholic who has the welfare of both his religion and country at heart. We are afraid it would, in the first place, be difficult to find public men of the stamp described; and, if they were forthcoming, it would not be easy to ensure their election in numbers large enough to be of any service. Again, if there were enough of such disinterested Catholics to form an influential group elected to Parliament, would they not be simply looked upon as the nominees of the Bishops? Moreover, such a group would be sure to provoke the formation of an opposing group, a Protestant anti-Centrum, which would be the nominee of all that is most fanatical in the provinces where the Protestants preponderate. We are afraid the plan would not succeed. We hardly think that their Lordships the Bishops would approve of it.

A SUCCESSFUL INSTITUTION.

Elsewhere in this issue we publish the report of the 50th annual meeting of the shareholders of the City and District Savings Bank. This institution is one of the oldest in the district of Montreal and is noted for the particularly marked measure of confidence that the working classes and small traders have during the past half a century manifested in it. The volume of business transacted has steadily increased year by year, until at present the bank occupies a foremost position in the circles of sound financial institutions. The directors entrusted with the administration of its affairs are all citizens who have achieved success in their undertakings, and the manager, Mr. Henry Burbeau, is a man well fitted in every way for the high and responsible position he occupies. He has had a long experience in the affairs of the bank and possesses in an eminent degree the confidence of shareholders and depositors.

MARTYR PRIESTS OF LIVERPOOL.

The acts of heroism that mitigated the terrible sufferings of the poor fever-stricken Irish emigrants, of fifty years ago, were not confined to the new world. Some time ago we had occasion to refer to the devotion of a London priest of Irish origin, during the cholera epidemic of 1832. Some of our readers may have some recollection of the self-denial of the noble band of Irish priests who ministered to their plague-stricken fellow country people in Liverpool half a century ago. Mr. M. P. Ryan, of Weaste, Manchester, England, recently wrote to the Catholic Times in order to remind the readers of that paper of the martyr spirit evinced by those noble men, ten in number, who gave their lives to God in trying to relieve the suffering victims while alive, and to take care of their emaciated and infection-fraught bodies after death had overtaken them. According to Mr. Ryan, the full history of those valiant soldiers of Christ ought to be given to the world. "Shall men of such nobility," he asks, "be forgotten?" In Liverpool their memory is still dear to all who can appreciate the highest type of Christian courage, and especially to the children and grand-children of those whom they saved from death or laid in the grave with their own hands. Ten such priests perished nobly during that terrible visitation. We must remember that the epidemic in Liverpool was a part of the same wide-spread fever-scourge that carried off so many victims in Quebec, Montreal, and elsewhere on this continent—those who were first seized being left behind to die or recover. It is quite possible that some of the sick who were tended by those brave Liverpool clergymen were relatives of those who crossed the ocean to be tended in turn by priests no less zealous on these Canadian shores. The proposal of Mr.

Ryan, therefore, that the Catholic Chronicle should publish a full and accurate account of the Liverpool epidemic and the ten priests who, after almost superhuman exertions, succumbed to the dread destroyer, ought to be approved by us Irish in Canada. In that year—the black '47—according to Mr. Ryan, thousands of Irish emigrants landed in Liverpool between January and May, bearing with them the seeds of disease and death. Many died to the United States and close on 90,000 to Canada. Of these, 6000 perished on the voyage, 4000 on arriving, 6000 in hospital and 2000 in the towns to which they repaired. In Ireland, says Mr. Ryan, the priests acted nobly in those days of sore affliction, and in Liverpool their conduct was no less noble.

FLOURISHING SEPARATE SCHOOLS.

A report in the Guelph Mercury of the last meeting of the Separate School Board, held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday evening, the 4th inst., is full of encouragement to the advocates of the Separate School system, and contradicts, so far as Guelph is concerned, the prejudiced statements that certain editors and correspondents are never tired of making. Among those present at the Board meeting were Messrs. McDermid, Doran, Doyle, Downey, Ryan, D. Keeler, Frank and F. Numan. Of especial interest to all who are interested in Catholic education is the report of the inspector, Mr. J. F. White. Therefrom we learn that the organization and the discipline were set down as "good classification, admirable order." That rating could not well be surpassed. The classes examined were "rated generally as 'good and excellent.'" The school buildings were said to have been "improved during the year and kept in excellent condition." The class rooms were described as "large, clean, neat and attractive, being models of what all school rooms should be." That is no common praise. Under the head of ventilation the Inspector reported that "suitable means were provided." Of equipments there was said to be "a proper supply," and the new slate boards were specially commended." The following general remarks were added: "Both for the excellence of its work and for the admirable spirit and deportment of its pupils this school deserves to rank among the most successful in the Province."

The Inspector's remarks on the girls' classes gave credit for organization, proficiency, accommodation and equipment, which were said to be equal to those of the boys' school. "Very material improvements," continues the report, "were made since last year in the school building. The trustees deserve much credit for the way in which they look after the accommodations. The answering of the classes shows that the year's work has been very successful and fixed their standing in many subjects decidedly above the average."

Rev. Father Kenny, S.J., whom those in this city who delighted to hear his eloquent discourses have not forgotten, gave the following report of the attendance in April:—

Boys' Classes—On roll, 222; average, 198.

Girls' Classes—On roll, 173; average, 160.

It seems to us that, apart from the evidence that this satisfactory report supplies of the successful working of the separate school system in Guelph, it also conveys a lesson. If all priests, trustees, teachers, parents and pupils took as much pride in the efficiency of their educational work as those who are connected with the admirable schools that we have been considering, it would be absolutely out of the power of fault-finders to vent their spleen, as they are so ready to do whenever the least occasion offers. There ought to be an esprit de corps among Catholic teachers and all who are in any way concerned in Catholic education which would lead them to aim at the highest attainable perfection. If that were the case, departures from the standard of the Guelph schools would be the rare exception and the cavillers would be silenced.

THE DEAF AND DUMB.

In Montreal the cause of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind has long been dear to us, and the Catholic Church has furnished devoted workers in that cause. We do not find it hard, therefore, to sympathize with any movement, which has the Church's sanction, for the relief of those sadly afflicted and sometimes sadly neglected fellow-creatures. The Epiphany Union of the Sacred Heart of Jesus has just put forth an appeal on behalf of the Epiphany School for the Deaf, St. Joseph's Home, 409 South May street, Chicago, the Sisters in charge of which (Daughters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary) have the fullest approval of the Most Rev. Archbishop Feehan and the Rev. Clergy of Chicago. Through more than one of her sons the Catholic Church has made the instruction of deaf mutes possible. The Sisters in charge of the Epiphany School have just started a yearly journal called "The

Voice of the Deaf," a beautifully illustrated publication, full of instructive and interesting reading. On the title page is a fine picture of Christ uttering the word of power that opened long ago the lips of the dumb, and which the Union has fitly taken for its name and hope. It also shows the processes and subjects of instruction. The work and its voice are dedicated, among others, to St. John of Beverley, to St. Francis de Sales and to St. Anne of Jesus. A picture of St. Francis and his dumb visitor occupies the centre of the page of dedication. For fuller particulars inquirers should address Madame Ellen M. Coughlan, Superioress of the Mission, 409 South May street, Chicago.

IRISH COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Among several good things in Donahoe's magazine for May is an article on "Irish Cottage Industries" by Mr. Joseph J. Sharkett, which is of historical as well as of economic interest. Among the curious inconsistencies that have marked poor Ireland's annals there is one which has a certain pathos and to which Mr. Sharkett incidentally refers in the beginning of his article. "Had Ireland," he says, "been permitted to carry on her national manufactures which were in such grand swing at the time of the commonwealth; had the nefarious Navigation Act of Charles II., restricting and ultimately destroying Irish export trade with the colonies been withheld; and had the final blow levelled at the woolen industry in the reign of the Third William, been averted, Ireland would now be numbered amongst the opulent nations." It certainly seems anomalous that Irish industries should thrive under a tyrant like Cromwell, yet there seems to be no doubt that under his despotic rule industrial prosperity made at least a fair start. "But," as Mr. Sharkett continues, "English jealousy and tyranny triumphed; the looms of Munster were stilled, while the early Stratford planters carried on, in undisturbed security, their linen factories in the North." The consequence of this unjust discrimination was that the Irish people were forced to depend on the soil, and when the crops failed, famine was wide-spread. Thus in the wet Summer of 1845 were sown the seeds of triple disasters, the potato disease, with famine, pestilence and depopulation.

It was in order, as far as possible, to prevent the recurrence of such a crisis by making the people independent of the effects of bad harvests that the Countess of Aberdeen founded the Irish Industries Association. A locality in South Donegal was chosen as the starting point of the Cottage Industries, and the Association, aided by the Congested Districts Board, at once supplied looms and spinning-wheels with the best modern appliances on the half-yearly payment system; teachers were supplied and the manufacture of homespun began. A ready sale was found in the co-operative stores in London. Among the illustrations to Mr. Sharkett's article is a capital picture of an old lady at an old-fashioned spinning-wheel. An interior view of the Linen Factory at Skibbereen is also given. This establishment is conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. Some beautiful specimens of Irish lace, flat point lace from Youghal, Rose point lace from Inishmacossin, a Limerick lace scarf, an Irish crochet lace collar, a Carrickmacross fan of combined applique and guipure and flat point border from Kenmare, disclose what the trained fingers of Irish girls can accomplish. A view of a corner of the Foxford Technical School and of the prize winners of the Foxford district are also among the illustrations. There is just one, more and it is the first on the list, though it reveals rather a state of things that Irish Cottage Industries are intended to abolish than an institution normally associated with them. This is an eviction scene. Let us hope that the day is coming when such scenes will no longer blot the fair face of Ireland. Certainly, if the other scenes that Mr. Sharkett so vividly describes can be taken as the basis of a forecast for the whole country, a new day has already dawned for Ireland, the noontide of which will be as glorious as her most cherished past. It is of special interest to know how large a share the Convent schools have in this industrial revival. And what makes this revival especially welcome is that the efforts of the energetic and devoted ladies who are conducting it are gradually effecting the most beneficent revolutions by bringing into existence a trained industrial class, and by inculcating in whole communities habits of observation, of order, of assiduity and independence. "The movement," Mr. Sharkett concludes, "is well initiated. Looms and spinning wheels are becoming busy once more and homespun are beginning to hold their own again in the Irish markets and in those of other parts of Great Britain. We wish success to Lady Aberdeen's Association, to the Convents and other bodies who are interesting themselves in Irish industrial affairs; and if the future can be judged by the past, we may prudently hope for better things for Ireland."

MR. JUSTIN MCCARTHY.

Montrealers, whether they were privileged to meet Mr. McCarthy during his visit to our city some dozen years ago, or knew him only by reputation, will be sure to rejoice at the prospects of his recovery. Mr. McCarthy's fame as a literary man has perhaps, in the minds of some persons, tended to overshadow his long and faithful services to the cause of Ireland's independence. An article from the Boston Republic, which is reproduced in our columns in this issue, will reveal to such persons the character and extent of Mr. McCarthy's patriotism. He has been a true Irishman from his boyhood, and his patriotism is not the less fervent because he is a modest man and shuns that noisy reclamation by which too many patriots try to keep themselves before the public eye.

St. Patrick's Society, the parent Irish national organization of the district of Montreal, has decided to hold its annual picnic and games on the splendid athletic grounds of the Shamrock Amateur Athletic Association. This is a move in the right direction and one which should be supported by all the Irish societies. The directors of the S.A.A.A. who evinced the spirit of enterprise and courage to face obligations amounting to nearly fifty thousand dollars to equip an athletic grounds which is a credit to the Irish people of Montreal, should not only be encouraged but also supported in their work.

HIBERNIAN NIGHT

HELD AT ST. GABRIEL HALL, POINT ST. CHARLES.

A reunion of the members of No. 2 Division, A. O. H., and their friends was held in St. Gabriel Hall, on Friday evening, 30th ult., in commemoration of the fourth anniversary of the organization of the Division.

The chair was taken at 8.15 by President Bro. Dunn, and with him were the following officers:—Bro. M. Lynch, Provincial Vice-President; Bro. T. N. Smith, Provincial Secretary; Bro. G. Clarke, County President; Bro. H. McGorraw, President Div. No. 1; Bro. McGorraw, Vice-President Div. No. 1; Bro. L. Breen, Vice-President Div. No. 2; Bro. J. Dodds, Secretary Div. No. 1, and Bro. Col. B. Feeney; Bro. Dr. J. E. Guerin, M.L.A., was also present.

The Chairman having made a few remarks about the organization and successful growth of the Division, the entertainment opened with a selection of Irish airs by Davis' Orchestra. The following took part in the programme arranged, and great credit is due them for the manner in which they acquitted themselves: Bro. P. Maloney, Bro. W. Mitchell, Bro. J. Dodds, Bro. E. Cullen, Bro. C. Macauley, Messrs. T. Mullins, J. McDonald, G. Geary, F. Cahill, D. Doloreux and the Mines Brothers.

Rev. Wm. O'Meara also favored the Division with his presence and the enthusiasm displayed by his appearance showed the high esteem in which the energetic pastor of St. Gabriel's is held. The Reverend Father made some very appropriate remarks, and the Division is to be complimented on having him as their chaplain. The ovation which he received at the end of his discourse fully demonstrated the appreciation of his kindly advice.

Speeches were also delivered by County President Bro. Clarke and Bro. B. Feeney.

Credit must be given to the Committee, with Bro. C. McAlear as Chairman and Bro. J. A. McGinn, Jr., as Secretary, for the excellent manner in which they worked to bring the entertainment to such a successful issue.

After the singing of the National Anthem, "God Save Ireland," the members dispersed to their homes thoroughly pleased with the amusement afforded them and wishing "Old No. 2" success and prosperity.

THE LADIES' AUXILIARY OF THE A. O. H.

TO HOLD ITS FIRST PUBLIC SOCIAL ON MONDAY NEXT.

The Ladies' Auxiliary, Division No. 1 of the A. O. H., will hold its first annual social gathering at St. Patrick's hall, Alexander street, on Monday evening next. Rev. Father McCallan, S.S., will deliver an address, and an excellent programme, in which the dramatic section of the Young Irishmen's Literary and Benefit Association will take part, has been arranged.

This organization, which is the outcome of a general movement in the United States and Canada having for its aim the betterment of women in circles of trade and commerce, and in social life, and to assist each other in sickness or distress, is a laudable one and should receive the measure of support which such a praiseworthy undertaking deserves.

The president of the local organization is Miss Sutherland, a woman of excellent administrative ability, and full of enthusiasm in her work. We have no doubt whatever about the success of the first public appearance of the Ladies' Auxiliary. That a large and enthusiastic audience will be present on the occasion is a foregone conclusion.

THE WOLFE TONE MONUMENT.

Subscribers to the Wolfe Tone Monument should bear in mind that no subscriptions larger than five cents from any one individual will be received for that purpose, but each member of a family is entitled to give that amount. This is in conformity with the appeal issued by the Irish National Alliance, and in accordance and by the advice of the Central Council of the 98 Anniversary Association, in Dublin. All subscriptions for the present should be addressed to James McGovern, 48 Iverville street; the same will be duly acknowledged and list of names published monthly in THE TRUE WITNESS.