The True Witness AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

TESTIS IN CŒLO FIDELIS

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THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

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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."

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

MAY—This is our last issue for April. To-morrow will be the first of May. It is not often that the most beautiful month of the year commences on Sunday. Although the entire world, animate and inanimate, feels a rejuvination when the flowery month of May comes to us, we Catholics have a special reason to rejoice in its approach. As all know, it is the month selected by the Church for special honor and devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. We need not tell of all the special prayers and devotions that mark each day of the coming month. With them all our readers are familiar. Nor do we think it necessary to insist upon as general an attendance as possible, each evening, at the devotions of the "Month of Mary." In each parish, at Grand Mass, to-morrow the hours of these devotions will be announced by the respective pastors. As a rule they consist in special prayers, such as the Litany, the Rosary, and others in honor of the Mother of God, a short instruction, and the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Since the first hour of Christianity, the glories of Mary have been sung and repeated, in every imaginable form, by the Church. The devotion to the Blessed Virgin has been one of the most noteworthy characteristics of the Catholic Church in all the long series of ages that she has existed. In no other Church has the Mother of God received the respect, honor and veneration that Christ expressly desired to have paid to His Mother. It is, also, a fact not to be overlooked that this year, the golden jubilee of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, there is exceptional reason for a greater and more fervid devotion to the one whom God has so signally honored.

It will be remembered that the late illustrious Pontiff, Leo XIII., had planned a special and universal celebration for this year. His worthy successor, Pius X., desirous of fulfilling the wishes of the departed Pontiff, and, at the same time, giving vent to his own devotion to the Blessed Virgin, has ordained the carrying out of that programme. Amongst other items therein is that of keeping in a special manner the eighth of each month from the eighth December, 1903, to the eighth December, 1904. Now that May, the month of Mary, is at hand, it so happens that the eighth of the month will fall on a Sunday. Thus we begin the month of Mary on Sunday, and we keep the eighth day on Sunday. There would seem to be something providential in this arrangement. As Sunday is the day of rest, the one day of the seven on which every person is free to practise the devotions that may be suggested by circumstances, all can make a special effort to-morrow to commence the month's devotions with the Church, and join her fully on the eighth day of the month in the commemoration of the glorious dogma that has proclaimed to the universe the ineffable beauty of the Immaculate Mother of God.

We have no need to insist further, for we are confident that all our readers will be only too happy to make this month of May, 1904, a month through the intercession of the one who was raised to the dignity of the Mother of Our Savior.

TEACHING MORALITY. — In the New York Legislature a bill has been introduced "to provide for the giving of instruction in the principles of morality," in all the public schools of the State. Despite the very awkward manner in which this piece of significant legislation is drawn up it aims at something better than the Godless system that has obtained of late in the public schools of America. It must be a sad confession of the inadequacy of the public school system to find the law makers obliged to legislate upon the teaching of morality. If such were the case with Catholic schools, what a mass of condemnation would not the secular press and the denominational pulpits pour out on them? This comes of the unfortunate system that drives religion, consequently pure morality, out of the schools. It has been the same the world over; it is the same in France to-day; it will be the same in every other land, where men seek to eliminate God from the school, to keep religion away from the children. The State needs morality in order to be able to exist, and there can be no morality without religion. This is one of the great points in favor of Catholic education. It is essentially based on faith and morals, and they go hand in hand with secular or profane instruction; the combination of them constitutes a Christian education.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP — Like the two-edged sword of the ancients, the ticklish question of Government ownership would seem to cut two ways. One of our leading American contemporaries says: Agitators who affect to see in Government ownership of public utilities a panacea for all labor troubles must regard the conditions in Austria with considerable despair. There Government owns and controls the railroads, and there that which is declared to be the greatest strike the world has ever seen has broken out among the railway employes. The men have abandoned the trains on the tracks and are asking for more pay. At the same time the Government is ordering out the troops in an effort to compel a return to work. Evidently governments can become as oppressive as individuals. It is the same in every other country, and in every sphere of life. Be it a Government, a Trust, an ordinary Company, or an individual that employs labor, the conditions must always be between the capital holder and the labor contributor. And when we have ransacked all the principle economic theorists, and all the speeches for and against in these great political and politico-labor agitations, we find no better solution for the various problems than those found by our late Pope, the illustrious Leo XIII. There is, in the human breast, a constant gravitation towards possession, and while one man seeks to secure that which he wants, another seeks to retain that which he holds. The capitalist wants to hold on to his capital and to secure all he can of profit out of it; the laborer wants to get all he can of that capital at as little cost of labor as it is possible. Thus the difficulty goes on, being increased at times by circumstances of an exceptional character. Government ownership may be a guarantee for the laboring man that he will receive his share of the capital, proportionate to his work; but it does not warrant him against the undue aggression of evil-intentioned governments upon his labor. Nor is his recourse, in the case of government ownership, as safe and as easily taken, as when he is dealing with a lesser power. It matters not in whom the power is vested, unless justice reigns at the council, the unfair will continue to be done by many.

ERRORS OF GENIUS. — Some time ago, on the occasion of the series of lectures delivered in America and Canada by Mr. W. B. Yeats, we found it proper to point out some remarks of that learned gentleman regarding certain great Irishmen, that might bear amendment. It would seem that since Mr. Yeats has gone home he has been passing other remarks that have grated on the ears of some of our contemporaries. In this connection we find the following little bit of rich sarcasm in a Catholic American contemporary:

"The patronizing way in which distinguished foreigners pass judgment upon the capabilities and possibilities of Americans is both amusing and amazing. Even Mr. William Butler Yeats, who had to come over to this country for the kind of appreciation which makes possible the commonplace business of living, is pleased to reassure us, while expressing his gratitude for our hospitality, that we may do great things "in two or three generations" because we are "imbued with a great intellectual curiosity." Mr Yeats' condescension is kind, but somewhat retroactive. Since American admiration for genius is not by any means confined to the large Celtic element with which he is in peculiar sympathy, the suggestion of our intellectual immaturity is more or less a reflection upon his own performance. Thus to impugn the judgment that has estimated his work most kindly is an evidence of greater modesty on the part of Mr. Yeats than his most enthusiastic admirers gave him credit for."

The lesson this teaches is that it is not always profitable to be hypercritical.

EMPTY CHURCHES. — Mr. Bok, the editor of the Ladies' Home Journal, a gentleman who is at home on every imaginable subject and can write well upon every conceivable theme—whether he knows anything about it or not—has undertaken to tell his readers why it is that the churches are so empty of young men. Of course he means Protestant churches. It is, he says, on account of the lack of attractive preaching. He says that such men as Henry Ward Beecher, Phillip Brooks and Dr. Rainsford never had to complain of the scarcity of young men in their audiences. Of course not. They were eloquent and even sensational preachers. A Catholic contemporary referring to Mr. Bok's estimate of the attractions needed in churches has the following very striking comment to make:

"It evidently does not occur to him that he makes the poorest of all arguments for religion in insisting that its drawing power depends upon the magnetism of an individual man, that faith in God shall flourish only in proportion as its preachers have the gift of eloquence or the knack of entertainment. The editor of the Ladies' Home Journal is out of his province—if there can be any province which is not his—but he has admirably succeeded in summing up in a phrase all the ineffectuality of Protestant churches. There is simply 'nothing to go for.'"

This is, after all, the explanation, illustrated by a special case, of what we have so long and persistently contended—that the Protestant religion has to depend upon human means—it being a humanly founded institution) for whatever success it may have. It has not the Mass — the Real Presence—that which draws the Catholic to the Church at five o'clock of a cold winter's morning, and makes him feel that it is the grand consolation of his life to be there when the great sacrifice is offered up to God.

Consumption Cured By Fresh Air.

It seems to be settled now that not medicine, but fresh air is the cure for consumption and all other diseases of the lungs. From all over the country reports have appeared in the papers recently of the excellent effects experienced by consumptives sleeping in the open air. Even during the coldest weather, last winter, people afflicted with consumption have slept on verandas, or in rooms unheated and with windows open, for the purpose of strengthening their lungs. Some years ago such a course would be considered almost suicidal. Then lung diseases were doctored and coddled. Now the treatment is radically different. Fresh air, fresh air, and more fresh air—such is the prescription now. We read in the papers last week of a man who had walked more than 10,000 miles to cure himself of the dread disease. He comes from San Francisco where, eleven years ago, he found himself afflicted with consumption. He removed to Salt Lake City and to Los Angeles in a futile effort to improve his health. His wife died, and in August, 1901, when he was told he could not live three months, he resolved to start walking and to die on the road in an effort to better himself, if necessary. He then weighed 98 pounds.

At first he was so weak he could go only a short distance. But the fresh air, for he also slept in the open air when he could, soon gave him new strength, and he has been walking ever since. He now weighs 138 pounds and is in robust health, but says he feels the necessity of keeping in the open and exercising constantly to keep alive. In the cold weather he goes south, and in the spring makes his way north again. He has been in nearly every State in the Union and along the borders of Canada.

Of course not everyone can take the tramping cure, nor is it likely that in every case it would be beneficial, but every one may have the main good which the tramping affords, namely, fresh air. — Sacred Heart Review.

WEDDING BELLS.

On Tuesday morning at 8.30 o'clock the marriage of Miss Sarah Wright, eldest daughter of Mr. Patrick Wright, a prominent citizen of Montreal, to Mr. Edward F. Casey, choirmaster of St. Anthony's, and a well known figure in commercial and musical circles, took place in St. Anthony's Church. The ceremony was performed by Rev. John E. Donnelly, P.P.

The bride was escorted by her father, and Mr. Thomas W. Casey was his brother's groomsman. The bride wore her travelling suit of cinnamon-brown cloth, trimmed with cream braid and touches of gold, and a pretty hat of cream-colored tissue and gold. She carried a shower bouquet of white roses. After the nuptial Mass Mr. and Mrs. Casey left for Toronto, Chicago, St. Louis and other places in the United States, and on their return they will reside on Mackay street. The bride was the recipient of many very beautiful presents. The groom was presented with a handsome cabinet of sterling silver from the choir, and also one from the Montreal Waterproof Company.

The choir during the ceremony, under the direction of Miss Donovan, organist, rendered a beautiful programme of musical numbers.

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Another wedding which attracted much attention at St. Anthony's this week was that of Miss Amy Cox, daughter of Mt. John Cox, to Mr. John Graham.

The bride, who was attended by her sister, Miss Lulu Cox, was given away by her brother, Mr. William H. Cox, N.P., Mr. William Graham acted as best man. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Thos. Heffernan, after which breakfast was served at the residence of the bride's mother. Mr. and Mrs. Graham left on a trip to New York, Washington and other American cities. On their return they will reside at No. 528 St. Hubert street. During the wedding service Miss Marie C. Hickey, of Morrisburg, sang two solos with exquisite taste.

Golden Wedding Of Mr. and Mrs. McNamee.

As announced in our issue of last week, the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. F. B. McNamee took place at St. Patrick's Church. The scene was most inspiring, as His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi stood before the venerable jubiliarians and addressed them in words of congratulation on having attained such an anniversary. His Grace referred to the many charitable works in Montreal in which the aged couple had taken an enthusiastic interest, and closed his touching remarks with the hope that they would be spared for many years to come.

Rev. John E. Donnelly, P.P., St. Anthony's, was the celebrant of the High Mass and was assisted by Rev. William O'Meara, P.P., St. Gabriel's, and Rev. Father Coffey, S.J., as deacon and sub-deacon. Among the clergy who occupied the stalls in the sanctuary were noticed: Rev. Martin Callaghan, P.P., St. Patrick's; Rev. Dr. Luke Callaghan, Rev. Fathers O'Reilly, of the Hotel Dieu; Fitzhenry, of St. Laurent College; Doyle, of Loyala College; Demers, of the Cathedral, and Fathers Heffernan, Killoran and Polan, of St. Patrick's.

Mr. and Mrs. McNamee were attended by Mr. and Mrs. Farthing, of Buffalo; Mr. C. F. Smith; Mr. and Mrs. C. Lee Abel, and Miss Abel, of Buffalo; Mrs. Peter Buckley, Troy, N.Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Austin Finnigan, of New York.

In the beautifully decorated pews reserved for the members of the family and friends were, among others: Mr. T. McGovern, a son-in-law, with his wife and children; John Thomas McNamee, a son, with his wife and three children; Mrs. T. Buckley, New York; Mrs. Locket, Montreal, and Mrs. Kate O'Reilly and daughter, of this city; Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, Sir Wm. Van Horne, Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick, Mr. Justice C. J. Doherty, Hon. John Costigan, ex-Minister of Inland Revenue; His Worship the Mayor; Mr. R. Bickerdike, M.P.; Senator Maclay, Mr. E. H. Lemay, Alderman Gallery, M.P., Alderman Walsh, Mr. and Mrs Michael Burke, Mr. William E. Doran, and many other leading citizens.

St. Patrick's Cadets acted as a guard of honor and occupied a position inside of the sanctuary railing.

The choir, under the direction of Prof, J. A. Fowler, rendered portions of Mass 4, and the Credo in Gregorian chant. At the Offertory an Agnus Dei was sung by Mr. Lamoreaux and Wr. Langlois. The Hymn to St. Patrick was sung by Mr. J. P. Kelly. Mendelssohn's Wedding March was played by the Professor at the opening and close of the service, together with several Irish melodies.

After the ceremony the jubilarians, accompanied by a large number of friends, assembled at the home of Mr. and Mrs. McNamee, where dinner was served. In the afternoon, from 3 to 7 o'clock, hundreds of citizens called on the venerable couple to offer their congratulations.

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Following is a list of the presents sent to Mr. and Mrs. F. B. McNamee on the occasion of their golden wedding, with the names of the donors: Robert Bickerdike, M.P., a gold-mounted marble clock; ex-Ald. Chas. F. Smith, a gold headed cane; S. Beaudin, a clock; Jas. Brady, gold mounted cane; Mrs. Geo. E. Mathieu, gold mounted satchel; the Rev. gentlemen of Loyola College, gold mounted onyx cross; Mrs. Vanier, onyx cross with holy water fountain attached; Lady Hingston and Mrs. Thompson, on behalf of the Catholic Sailors' Club, gold mounted rosary, a signet ring and gold pencil; Rev. J. E. Donnelly, gold mounted rosary and gold pen; Mr. P. Davis, Ottawa, gold card receiver; Mr. Thos. Collins, bon bon set of five pieces; ex.Mayor and Mrs. Cochrane, gold mounted dish; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Simpson, a gold mounted cheese scoop; Mr. W. Germain, M.P., gold spoon; Mr. and Mrs. A. McCready, Elizabethport, N. C., gold souvenir spoon; ex-Alderman John Heney, Ottawa, gold flower vase; Mrs. Peter Buckley, of Troy, N.Y., cut glass flower vase mounted in gold; Mrs. Austin Finigan, Buffalo, N.Y., ornament, gold mounted; Dr. Hackett, gold mounted fruit dish; Mrs. Meigher, gold mounted photograph frame; Rev. Sister Hickey, two gold mounted relics; Mrs. C. Lee Abel white satin visiting card case mounted in gold; Sisters of Villa Maria Convent, hand painted fruit dish, gold, mounted; Sister Ste. Euginie, of the Congregation, Ottawa; hand painted scapulars; Mrs. W. McCready, gold mounted jewellery case; Mrs. Harry Cook, gold mounted ice-cream server, Mrs. Menzies, white pearl gold mounted prayer book; Mr. F. W. and Miss Smith, cut glass salt seller, gold mounted; Mrs. Dennis Barry, gold heart, set in diamonds; Mr. and Mrs. John Foley, gold locket; Sister Costello, of Lawrence, Mass., gold heart and cross, mounted in pearls; Mr. and Mrs. W. L. McKenna, five o'clock gold coffee spoons Mr. and Mrs. McNamee, of New York, a gold mounted clock; Hon. John Costigan, a gold fern dish; Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Campbell, gold lorgnette and gold cuff Luttons; the Misses Bickerdike, gold thimble; Mrs. Gilchen, Quebec, gold paper cover; Mr. and Mrs. Dineen, gold thimble; Mrs. Gaynor, Quebec, gold charm; Mrs. John Morrisey and Mrs. Fontaine, gold table bell; Mrs. C. Egan, salad fork; Mrs. and Miss Irwin, gold mounted picture; Mrs. A. Locket, gold pin; Miss Pringle, English red roses, mounted in gold; J. Beamish Saul, a basket of yellow roses; the Misses O'Neill, Villa Maria, basket of American beauties; the Queen's Club, roses and carnations; Mrs. Davies, flower vase; Mrs. F. O'Neil, Yonkers, N.Y., gold cream pitcher and sugar bowl; Miss Elizabeth O'Neil, Yonkers, N.Y., gold sifter; Miss Nellie O'Neil, Yonkers, N.Y., gold salt sellars and spoons. Mr. F. Walsh, Ottawa; Mrs. Kenney, New York, and others also sent presents.

LOCAL NOTES.

ABBE BOURASSA, P.P.—On Sunday last at all the Masses, and especially at the Grand Mass, at St Louis de France Church, Rev. Abbe Bourassa, former secretary of Laval University, announced his entry upon the duties of pastor of that parish. The new incumbent began by paying a rare tribute to the virtues and good works of his predecessor, the late Cure Laroque. He then recalled the fact that when it was only supposed that Father Laroque would retire to take up his duties as visitor of the schools, he had been selected by the Archbishop to succeed to the charge of Parish Priest. He stated that the late Father Laroque had been exceptionally pleased to know that he was to succeed him; they had been close friends and had understood each other well. Now that Father Laroque had gone from them, in a far different manner from that in which it was expected he would leave, the new incumbent enters upon his duties filled with the thought of death, the responsibility of the priest, and with a determination, as long as it might please Providence and then his ecclesiastical superiors, to continue in charge, to follow as closely as possible in the footsteps of his predecessor, to continue the work that he had so wonderfully commenced, and to be to the parish a father such as the regretted priest had ever been.

HEALTH.

Energy and health are the highest kind of capital. A man bankrupt in these is the poorest wretch of all. In vain will he search the statutes and the constitutions for relief when his health is gone, for upon this great and final subject they are as silent as the grave.