

THE YEAR 1895.

This is the last time, in 1894, that we shall have an opportunity of addressing our many readers and the friends of THE TRUE WITNESS in general. Before we bury the year that is now passing, and on the verge of the one that comes to replace it, we would like to dwell for a few moments upon a subject that cannot fail to interest every person.

In glancing back over 1894, while there is much for which we should be grateful, still there are many things that were they to be done over, might not be performed in the same way as that in which they have been. There have at times arisen very unpleasant incidents that had for result rather the estrangement than the conciliation of people. In Canada, this young and glorious land, where so many races blend in the formation of a magnificent country, where so many denominations exist, and where political divisions are necessary, it would be well were we all to learn the grand precept of toleration and to put it into daily practice.

No matter how proud we may be of our respective origins, how confident we may be in the truth of our respective creeds, or how positive we may be in the superiority of our respective politics, still no man should run away with the idea that he is entirely independent of his neighbors. Divine Providence has so arranged matters that we must all live and labor together, respect each other, and seek mutual assistance, as an assurance of success. At the beginning of a New Year many good resolutions are formed, and, amongst others, we would request of all our readers to start out, in 1895, with the determination of being tolerant and kind towards every section of the community, both individually and collectively.

If we desire that others should respect our opinions, we must commence by respecting theirs. We may think them in error, but we should understand that they may honestly have the same opinion of us. This year should be one of emulation and not rivalry. Emulation creates admiration and friendship; rivalry engenders hatred and misguided enmities. Harmony springs from the former; disunion from the latter. As with individuals, so with nationalities—each has its shortcomings as well as its perfections. It should be our duty here in Canada to bury in the Atlantic the divisions and animosities of the old world, and to seek to cull all the good qualities and grand characteristics of each race, and to combine them—like the *chef-d'œuvre* of the Grecian artist—in one magnificent and new masterpiece, in which all the graces and none of the deformities of each model may be found.

There is no subject so prolific in division as the most important of all—*religion*. It is well known that for over forty years our paper has been the special organ of Catholicity in this Province and that we hold it to be our mission to propagate, in as far as our humble means will permit, the grand truths and immutable dogmas of our Faith. But we understand full well that others, who do not agree with us, feel equally that they have a duty to perform in upholding the tenets of their creeds and in striving to spread abroad the principles upon which they rely for salvation. It too often happens that zealous persons fly into an ungovernable passion whenever a question of religious controversy arises. This is an indication of more earnestness than Christianity. If a man feels confident, and actually knows, that his Faith is Divine, that he holds the Truth, that he is on the safe side, he has no need of ex-

citement, much less of acrimony. If he is right, all the attacks or denials of the world cannot affect that right; and if he is wrong, all the thunder of his sarcasm or the vindictiveness of his sarcasm cannot remove that wrong. He only proves that he is not certain of his position when he flies to vituperation or makes use of insult. In fact, by so doing he is casting great discredit upon all that he holds sacred and would have others revere. We must remember that, if we kneel at different shrines, we all adore the same God, and the same God commanded us all—without distinction—to love one another. There is nothing to be gained by abusing individuals, much less creeds. Fair argument, logical expression, solid reasoning, are the only justifiable weapons; and added to these earnest prayer.

We hold that we are sincere in our Faith; we feel capable of explaining it and justifying every precept of our Church. But we must grant that others may be equally sincere; that by their lights, the circumstances that surround them, and the atmosphere in which they have lived, they honestly believe what they teach—and as an evidence we find them putting their teachings into practice. We may be appointed to show them examples, to strive to instruct them in that which they do not rightly understand; but we have never been appointed to judge them. That privilege and that power are reserved by the Eternal, and we cannot intrude upon His prerogatives.

Let us, then, bury in the blizzard snows of expiring '94 all those hard feelings, religious bickerings and enmity-creating divisions of the past. No man was ever converted to a Faith by abuse; it is example, precept and logical conviction alone that can persuade. Let us be tolerant on all sides and we will be the instruments of a much desired reign of peace amongst the conflicting elements of our country.

What we say regarding religious opinions applies still more to political differences. If there is one thing more insane than another it is the spectacle of a man making enemies for himself amongst his neighbors and bringing discord into a circle of harmony, for the sake of some political ideal or theory. The country will not turn in its progress to please his notions, while he is creating troubles and worries for himself that could easily be avoided. His party will go on irrespective of his enthusiasm, but his friends, whom he should cultivate, may become his opponents. In a word, it would be well if those out and out, fanatically inclined politicians, on either side, were to learn that they sacrifice peace and happiness to their admiration for some man or their zeal for some party. If each one would reflect calmly, he would see that the public can get on without him, but his family cannot. "Charity," as well as zeal, "should commence at home." Yet this need not prevent a man from having his political convictions, voting according to his conscience, and doing his duty to his country. All we ask is that political differences be not allowed to create enmities in private nor to interfere with the claims of those who depend upon their parents, husbands or brothers for support and happiness.

May 1895 be, for all, a year of peace and happiness, is our fervent and hopeful wish.

THEY say that "it is an ill wind that blows nobody some good." The fearful blizzard that struck Montreal on last Thursday brought joy to the hearts of hundreds of men who had been vainly seeking for work and whose distress has been most pitiful. In that sense the

storm was a blessing. Better evidence we could not have of the wisdom of Almighty in the arrangement of the nature and its variations. Some complain of the weather,—but they are the very people who are least affected thereby and who are best situated to resist its inclemency. They forget, however, that there are thousands of others whose very existence depends upon such dispensations. We should therefore thank God for the storms and the cold as well as for the beautiful spring or the warm summer.

A NEW YEAR'S GREETING.

THE STUDENTS OF MOUNT ST. LOUIS INSTITUTE

Give a Grand Musical, Dramatic and Military Entertainment for the Parents of the Pupils and Friends of the House—Presentation of a Magnificent Flag.

Despite the terrific storm of last Thursday the immense hall of the Mount Saint Louis Institute was filled to its utmost capacity, in the afternoon, by the parents of the pupils and by hundreds of the warm friends of the institution. The programme was varied, and all the performers acquitted themselves admirably. The French comedy and the English recitations were well rendered. The "Overture," by the M. S. L. band, was a lively march entitled "Marcha Legeria," from Vanpoucke. It was rendered in splendid style. Mr. H. Fitzgibbon then entertained the audience with a well-delivered piece of declamation. The M. S. L. orchestra exhibited fine musical training in the rendering of "Silver-Bell," by Sephelegrell. The infantry and cavalry sword exercises by the cadets elicited the loudest of applause, and reflected creditably upon the instructors and pupils.

This was followed by two very ably delivered pieces of recitations, one by Mr. E. Cummings, and the other by Mr. F. Tansey. There was a real indication of good elocutionary powers in these young men. Mr. Tansey is evidently possessed of that fire and enthusiasm which goes to make up the effective speaker. The clarinet solo, "La Piuie d'Or," by Mr. F. Naud, showed that Mr. Vanpoucke's pupil takes after his master and is a credit to him. The comedy bouffonne, "Les Brigands Invisibles," was a laugh-creating piece in one act. All the actors did extra well and deserved the highly appreciative applause of all present. The Orchestra once more delighted the audience with the rendering of Boettger's "Eureka," which was followed by two admirable declamations, one by Mr. Peacock, the other by Mr. Gulliver. It would be difficult to criticise either one or the other, as both—each in a different style of delivery—were models of elocution. Mr. A. Tasse's violin solo was encored most heartily. It was a charming piece of instrumental performance. The composition, "Chanson Polonaise," was from Mr. Tasse's famous professor, Mr. O. Martel. The whole was a credit to the professor and composer, as well as to the pupil and executionist.

The feature of the entertainment was the fancy drill exercise by the cadets of the institution. This performance elicited great applause, owing to the precision of the difficult movements. At the close of the military performance Mrs. Moore, on behalf of the English lady patronesses of the college, presented the cadets with a beautiful flag of the most exquisite design.

In a well-worded speech in English, Captain Pelletier responded. It was graceful and military, indicating a good command of the language, and that special eloquence so effective in a commander. At the request of the Reverend Director, Hon. Mr. Curran delivered an excellent address, in the course of which he praised the commander of the cadets for his able speech, and the cadets for their grand display. He referred to the emblems on the new standard, the maple, the rose, the thistle and the shamrock, and he invited all the students to try well the motto *Virtute et Scientia*,

to imitate the virtues of the different races there represented and to learn all the sciences taught in the institution, in order to prepare for the battle of life. It was a happy, a timely and an eloquent speech, and was received with an applause that told how highly it was appreciated.

The entertainment closed with the playing, by the band, of "St. Patrick's Day," "Vive la Canadienne," and "God Save the Queen."

THE LATE SIR JOHN THOMPSON.

RESOLUTIONS FROM ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY—MONTREAL REPRESENTATIVES.

The members of the St. Patrick's Society met at their hall, 223 McGill Street, on Monday evening, the 24th December, to pass resolutions of regret at the death of Sir John Thompson and sympathy with his bereaved family. The president, the Hon. James McShane, occupied the chair, and made a short speech, full of touching references to the dead statesman and the personal kindness of the Queen. Dr. Kennedy referred to the interest which Sir John had always taken in the affairs of the Irish Canadians, and moved the following resolution:

That the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal has learned with inexpressible sorrow of the death of the Rt. Hon. Sir John S. Thompson, P.O., K.C.M.G., Q.C., Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada, whose life and personal virtues have been so universally acknowledged, whose great services to the state have been everywhere recognized, and whose eminent career will perpetuate his name as a distinguished son of Canada, an illustrious descendant of the Irish race and a statesman worthy of the Empire.

Mr. George Murphy seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. B. Campbell moved:

That a copy of the above resolution be forwarded to Lady Thompson, with the assurance that the society treasures with pride the recollection that her late husband, amidst all the cares and worries of his exalted position, imposed upon himself the task of delivering an address for the benefit of their charitable fund at the annual celebration of St. Patrick's Day, 1892, for which the members of the society will be ever grateful, and they assure Lady Thompson that they deeply sympathize with her and her family in the irreparable loss they have sustained.

This was seconded by Mr. John Hoolahan and also carried without dissent.

Mr. M. J. F. Quinn, Q. C., president of the Junior Conservative Club, will represent that organization at Halifax upon the occasion of Sir John Thompson's funeral. Mr. Quinn will be accompanied by Lieut.-Col. Fred. Henshaw, past president of the Club. All the railways are arranging special cheap excursions to Halifax, good from December 31 to January 3. The Intercolonial have already announced their price, which will be \$6.75 from Levis.

CATHOLIC PROTECTION AND RESCUE SOCIETY.

The Rev. Father Godts, C.S.S.R., presided at a meeting of ladies held in St. Ann's presbytery, on Wednesday afternoon. The object of this meeting was to form a committee, the members of which will visit the girls brought out from England by the Catholic Protection and Rescue Society and placed in situations throughout the city. The ladies forming the committee are:

President—Miss L. Doherty, 24 St. Famille street; Miss A. Doherty, 24 St. Famille street; Miss Murphy, 836 Dorchester street; Miss Amy Murphy, 836 Dorchester street; Miss H. Kavanagh, 627 Sherbrooke street; Miss E. Kennedy, 25 Murray street; Miss N. Enright, 55 Young street; Mrs. T. C. Collins, 813 Palace street; Mrs. Thos. Lane, 243 Richmond street; Mrs. Alphonse Provost, Richmond street.

At the close of the meeting the ladies visited the home on St. Thomas street, where they were warmly received by the matron, Miss A. Brennan, and spent a pleasant hour with the bright-eyed little inmates, who sang many pretty Christmas carols, and gave an exhibition of calisthenic exercises, all of which were greatly appreciated.

On Christmas day, Miss Brennan entertained at dinner a number of boys and girls, sent to Montreal by the Catholic Protection and Rescue Society. The day was spent in playing various games and at night took place the distribution of the *goodies* of a well-laden Christmas Tree.

Any one wishing to join in this good work may call on the matron, at the Home, or send his address to Rev. Father Godts, to the President or Secretary, M. L. L'Esperance, 68 McCord st.