

enable the proprietors to give you the assistance they would like to give you, and which in fairness you should have. Considering the amount of work you must have to go through every week, it is simply a marvel to me that you succeed so well.

An overworked editor is liable to slip up once in awhile. I am sure it was not your design to glorify one section of your readers at the expense of another, though "English Catholic" may be excused for thinking so.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, allow me to parody the words of Portia, for "I would rather advise twenty editors what is wise to do than be one of the twenty to follow my own advising." Your task is a difficult one, and I trust "English Catholic" and every one of your readers will bear this fact in mind and lend a hand to put THE TRUE WITNESS on a solid foundation, and give you a fair chance to show what you can do in the way of Catholic journalism.

Yours respectfully,  
IGNORAMUS.

Montreal, March 4th, 1895.

SOMETHING WELL WORTH READING.

The Catholic Church demands nothing more than a Christian heart and good common sense for civility within her hallowed walls. If so, imagine a lady coming into church on a Sunday morning while Mass is going on, and two or three gentlemen leaving their pew to let her enter. That may be according to the world's fashion, but I doubt if it is according to God's fashion, to disturb His faithful while reading their prayers or telling their beads.

It has been said that "a country's civilization is known by the respect paid to women." But the respect paid to our Lord, on His Altar, is certainly above that due to our good women of the Nineteenth Century. If a gentleman is in some one else's pew,—or even in his own for that matter,—and a lady comes to the same before service begins, then he may leave his seat to let her enter. But if two or more gentlemen occupy a pew, while a lady comes to the same and Mass is going on, it is like disrespect to Almighty God to disturb the attention of so many around them, by leaving their pew to let that lady enter and occupy the seat farthest from the aisle.

When our good mother occupies the head seat at the family table why should she not occupy the first seat in a pew? A lady shows good commonsense, when she requests gentlemen not to leave their pews to let her enter.

Now, with regard to seating accommodation in some of our large Catholic churches, attention should be paid to our poor. There are frequently at Grand Mass many vacant seats, which would be far better occupied than to see so many standing or kneeling at the door or in the aisle. Near the door, during winter, when there are many vacant seats in the body of the church, is no place for people during Mass or Benediction.

A social atmosphere among Catholics does not exist. Before a stranger leaves a Protestant Church the pastor will have asked his name, his business, where he lives and where he comes from. He is welcomed by nearly everyone and he feels at home. The following from an able article in a recent issue of The Catholic Record, Canada illustrates too beautifully the lack of sociability in the Church not to quote it here:

"The services are finally over, and the stranger's eyes searchingly meet those of others, just for a nod, a word of greeting, but all in vain. Not a friendly hand is extended him, not a sympathizing smile greets him, not a kind voice bids him welcome! He knows not why, but somehow he lingers at the entrance of the church, as if he were to meet somebody there. Finally, when all are gone, he awakes from his reverie and more than ever does he feel that he is alone. Next Sunday he goes again, and if he has the money he may have a seat in a pew, but if he enters one without the privilege having been granted by the usher, a frowning face may greet him. True, the usher will not demand of him to leave the pew, if he has no money, but only those who have been in the position know the bitterness of the sting endured when the usher comes for the dime and you do not possess it. He

may go there Sunday after Sunday for a whole year, and matters will not change."

The fact is, there should be more ushers appointed in some of our large churches to see that people unable to pay for seats will be courteously provided with the same. If only those who pay their dime are ushered to seats, many weak Catholics, especially in large cities, rather than pay money to the Church, will stay away from Mass, and lose the benefit of many impressive sermons. If one is without his dime, he should not be told, as I have heard myself, "This seat is ten cents." To many Protestants, this means that it is absolutely necessary to pay money at the door in order to enter a Catholic Church.

Thus continues the above quoted article: "O clergy, induce your men of influence to stand at the portals of your churches to welcome and interest themselves in our young men. Speak kind words to them. Encourage them in their oft arduous undertakings and noblest aspirations. I implore every Catholic man and woman to give our Catholic young men a chance, for they have every just claim on us and they are the future hope of the Church."—The Catholic Record for Feb. 16.

Again, there is a disease, increasing year after year, for which necessity urges a remedy. This disease is the fashion, in cities, of expensive funerals. While it is well to respect the dead, how can poor people have prayers said for their departed relatives, and pay sums of money to carry and accompany mere mortal flesh to the grave? It is needless to say, yet well to remind some, that wealth displayed in fashionable funerals does not, in the least, help the soul. These excesses are already being abolished by some of our best priests in the United States, and there is no reason why the same should not be done in Canada.

In the Church is where we should honor the dead by means of prayers, and not in so many covered carriages where giggling and merriment frequently take place on the way to the cemetery. Imagine a person of limited means, whom I saw myself, giving next to his last cent in hiring liveries for one of these occasions. Is there anything more ridiculous? Such is the influence of fashion. This fad of the nineteenth century does not originate with Catholicity. We do not find anything in Church history to show that the early Christians lavished wealth in burying the dead.

A noted after dinner speaker once said to his hearers, "It is far better for a person to receive so much taffy while he is living than so much 'epitaphy' after he is dead." And, so, is it not far better to show our sincere appreciation of a person while living than so much vanity in burying his remains? When will some people learn to use common sense, and curb their passion in trying to imitate the rich? Well might we say with poet Gray:

"All this pomp and power,  
And all that wealth e'er gave,  
Await alike the inevitable hour,  
The path of glory leads but to the grave."  
AN OBSERVER.

LA BANQUE DU PEUPLE.

FAVORABLE REPORTS—STOCKHOLDERS EXPRESS THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THE MANAGEMENT.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of La Banque du Peuple took place in the board room of the bank on Monday, 4th March, at three o'clock. The president, Mr. Jacques Grenier, occupied the chair; Mr. J. S. Bousquet, the cashier, acted as secretary, and among the other gentlemen present were Messrs. George S. Brush, vice-president; A. Leclaire, T. Prefontaine, William Francis, A. Prevost, Charles Lacaille, John Y. Gilmore, George R. Muir, Hon. F. E. Gilman, J. S. Coutlee, Godfrey Weir, Dr. Edw. Desjardins, M. Burke, M. Nolan de Lisle, John Mann, Rudolph Forget, W. S. Evans, A. Turcotte, A. W. Stevenson, W. St. Onge, Louis Armstrong, Charles Whittiman, John Morrison and John Crawford.

Mr. Grenier read, as follows:—

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.

The Directors beg to submit to the Shareholders the statement of the affairs of this Bank for the year ending 28th February, 1895.

The net profits of the year, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts and

deducting cost of management, amount to \$114,280 18.

Out of this sum we have paid dividends at the rate of seven per cent. per annum, amounting to \$84,000, and placed to the credit of Profit and Loss \$30,280.18.

The business of the Bank, both at the head office and branches, is steadily progressing, and the number of current accounts annually increasing.

We find that the convenience afforded to the public by the local branches is appreciated and forms a valuable aid in the maintenance of the Bank's relations with clients in the outlying parts of the city.

It is the desire of the Directors to employ the Bank's resources as fully as possible in the locality whence they are derived, so as to assist in every legitimate way the commercial and agricultural interests of the country.

All our agencies have been thoroughly inspected during the year, and we notice a large increase in the volume of transactions; they are working very satisfactorily.

We are happy to bear sincere testimony to the industry and attention displayed by the officers of the general staff and branches in the conduct of the affairs of this institution, and fully appreciate their efforts in assisting your Board to promote the best interests of the Bank.

The whole respectfully submitted,  
J. GRENIER,  
President.

Montreal, 1st March, 1895.

Mr. Bousquet then presented the following:—

STATEMENT OF PROFITS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1ST MARCH, 1895.

Dr.	
Dividend, 3 1/2 per cent. paid September 1st, 1894.....	\$ 42,000.00
Dividend, 3 1/2 per cent. payable March 4th, 1895.....	42,000.00
Balance of profit and loss carried forward.....	42,857.60
	<u>\$ 126,857.60</u>

Cr.	
Balance of profit and loss account 28th February, 1894.....	\$ 12,577.42
Net profits of the year after paying expenses and providing for all bad and doubtful debts.....	114,280.18
	<u>\$ 126,857.60</u>

GENERAL STATEMENT CLOSE OF BUSINESS: 28th FEBRUARY, 1895.

Dr.	
To Circulation.....	\$ 746,798.00
To deposits not bearing interest.....	1,256,080.49
To deposits bearing interest.....	5,367,856.02
To amount due to other banks.....	150,584.14
To capital paid up.....	\$1,200,000.00
To Reserve fund.....	600,000.00
To profit and loss.....	42,857.60
To Dividend No. 98 payable 4th March, 1895.....	42,000.00
To Unclaimed Dividends.....	4,269.67
	<u>1,839,067.27</u>
	<u>\$9,410,885.92</u>

Cr.	
By specie.....	\$ 69,051.10
" Dominion notes.....	487,485.00
" Circulation redemption fund.....	42,818.08
" Notes and cheques on other banks.....	272,452.84
" Balances due by other banks.....	18,588.89
" Call and short loans on stock and bonds.....	752,818.89
Immediately available.....	\$1,812,609.28
" Loans and discounts current.....	7,297,210.40
" Notes and bills overdue, secured.....	24,082.68
" Notes and bills overdue unsecured.....	15,042.12
" Mortgages and hypothecques.....	80,240.08
" Real estate.....	71,251.88
" Bank premises.....	220,000.00
	<u>\$9,410,885.92</u>

J. S. BOUSQUET, Cashier.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

We, the undersigned auditors, named at the last general annual meeting of the shareholders, after having examined the books, verified the specie and legal tenders on hand; in a word, after having taken cognizance of the assets and liabilities of the corporation of "La Banque du Peuple," have the honor to report that we have found the whole to be correct and deserving our approval.

P. P. MARTIN,  
NOLAN DELISLE,  
LOUIS ARMSTRONG,  
Auditors.

Montreal, 1st March, 1895.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Grenier, in moving the adoption of the reports of the directors and auditors, spoke of the wave of depression that recently passed over the commercial world, despite which the report of the directors showed considerable progress and brighter prospects. He spoke of the new and beautiful building now completed.

Mr. Bousquet then reviewed the situation in his usual able and satisfactory

manner. We might add that great credit is due Mr. Bousquet for his able and energetic work in the interest of the institution.

ST. PATRICK'S T.A. & B. SOCIETY.

The regular monthly meeting of the above society which was held Sunday afternoon was very largely attended. At the religious meeting the rev. president, Rev. J. A. McCallen, S.S., preached a sermon appropriate to the Lenten season and the blessings to be derived therefrom. After the sermon the rev. father administered the pledge to 12 persons. Hon. Senator Murphy presided at the business meeting with Mr. M. Sharkey in the vice-chair; four new members were admitted to the benefit branch.

A resolution of condolence to Mr. Jas. H. Kelly, on the death of the mother of his wife, was adopted. Arrangements were made to take part in the procession in honor of St. Patrick. The secretary, Mr. Costigan, reported that all arrangements for the society's grand concert on St. Patrick's night were now complete. A draft of the programme was read and heartily approved. The event will be held in the Victoria Armory Hall. Hon. Senator Murphy will preside and one of the leading features will be an address by the eloquent rev. president of the society.

Mr. F. X. Payette, of Cote St. Paul, has charge of the musical portion and amongst those who will take part are Mrs. A. Darling, Miss Lucy Bertram, Mrs. T. C. McCarthy, Miss M. Daignault, Miss T. Jackson, Misses Quinlan, Miss May Milloy, Miss A. Lalonde, Miss Larcher, Miss C. Smallshire, Messrs. A. E. Payette, F. G. Sharpe, J. Young, H. O'Brien, John J. McCaffrey, H. Lalonde, G. Bernstein, Prof. Lachance, J. Greenwood (Bill Adams), A. Dionne, Vienna trio and others.

FATHER LACOMBE'S PLANS.

Rev. Father Lacombe, the famed North-West missionary, was in Ottawa last week interviewing the Government about a number of north west matters. One of his schemes, the details of which he promised to make public later on, after it has been submitted to the Governor General-in-Council, is to obtain permission to gather the half-breeds into a large colony, in some part of the north-west, where they will not be so exposed to contact with the whites, before whose advance they are rather retrograding than improving in civilization. "If the Government will but fall in with my views I believe the half breed people will be regenerated once more," said the aged missionary, "and it will be a great credit to the Government to have assisted in the realization of this plan." Father Lacombe is also arranging for an excursion to St. Boniface, where Rev. Father Langevin will be consecrated Archbishop on the fourteenth inst.

FATHER LEFEBVRE'S SUCCESSOR.

A Moncton despatch says that Rev. Father Guertin, of St. Joseph's College, Memramcook, has been transferred to St. Laurent College, Montreal, and has gone there. It is rumored that Rev. A. Boi, of St. Laurent, will be transferred to St. Joseph's College to assume the superiorship of that college, rendered vacant by the death of Rev. Father Lefebvre, the founder of the institution, and who was so much looked up to by the French Canadians.

A LENTEN DISPENSATION.

ROME, March 7.—The Pope has issued a brief to the Roman Catholic bishops in England, granting dispensations from observance of the Lenten fast in consequence of the prevalence of influenza in Great Britain.

APPOINTED PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY.

—The Rev. Father Marcer, who has been connected with St. Ann's church, Montreal, for several years has been appointed Professor of Philosophy in the Redemptorist training school, St. Louis, M.

The Benedictine Prior Adelheim Odu-matt, who is at present a guest of Archbishop Williams, of Boston, is one of the most powerfully built men in America, and his massive form covered with his loose-fitting clerical garb and his flowing black beard makes him look not unlike some ancient giant as described in the books of fable.