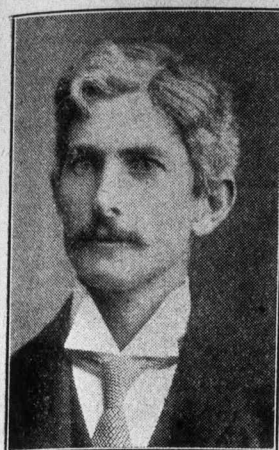


OUR TORONTO LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)



MR. WILLIAM PRENDERGAST.

Positions there are in the world which give their holders an opportunity for exercising a great amount of influence, over a vast range of territory and amongst an almost unlimited number of people. This influence too may be for good or the reverse, and though in its inception it is always intended to be of the first character, it sometimes misses its mark, and the results are disastrous and incalculable. The words "disastrous" and "incalculable" are used advisedly, because the subject to which reference is made, is one touching the children and teachers of our schools and anything regarding either is always of paramount importance.

One of the positions spoken of is that of inspector of schools; the visits of one suited to the work, are like those of an angelic messenger, they carry with them encouragement and enlightenment; they are, especially in remote districts, the one oasis towards which the teacher looks throughout the entire length of the school term. If unsuited to the calling, the visits of the inspector are as a sudden fall in the mercury, a pall of depression accompanies his coming paralyzing every force and destroying all vitality and his outgoing is the signal for a full and pleasurable sight of relief from teacher and pupils.

To the former class belongs Mr. W. Prendergast, B.A., inspector of separate schools for Ontario. His nine years' occupancy of the position, during which no murmur of disapproval has fallen upon the public ear is sufficient guarantee of his fitness, and his strong yet restrained character has left a beneficial effect throughout his entire inspectorate.

Mr. Prendergast is an Irish Canadian, his father having been born in Canada, and his mother, Mary Casey, being Irish by birth. He was born some thirty-eight years ago near Seaford, Ontario, where he received his primary education, and afterwards attended the Collegiate Institute. His degree of Bachelor of Arts was won at Toronto University of which institution he is also a specialist in mathematics.

Before attending the University Mr. Prendergast had taught in the Public and Separate Schools, in the vicinity of Waterloo, Gore of Downey and Seaford. He afterwards taught as mathematical master in the Collegiate Institutes of Chatham, Clinton and Seaford. Nine years ago Mr. Prendergast was appointed one of two inspectors allowed by the Ontario Government for the separate schools of the province, and in the plying of his work he has since visited every school in the entire district. The extent of his jurisdiction, the number with whom he came in contact professionally and the power for good or harm are here self-evident. Some time ago a third inspector was appointed with Mr. Prendergast as inspector for Central Ontario. The wide experience gained as a teacher in the primary and secondary schools, has been of great service to the inspector for Central Ontario and his progressive and alert individuality keep him alive to all the interests of school life. Mr. Prendergast has delivered numerous addresses of teachers and before the Educational Association of Ontario. The many calls from school interests do not permit of active association with many of our city societies, but he is a member of the historical section of the Catholic Union and an occasional contributor to newspapers and magazines. Mr. Prendergast is also

an enthusiastic golf player, and a member of the Rosedale Club. He is married to Miss Killoran, a lady of a well known family near Seaford. They have four children, and are members of the Holy Family parish. When off duty Mr. Prendergast is to be found at his home 121 Empress Crescent, Toronto.

DEATH OF MOTHER PHILOMENA

It is but a short while since the Sacred Heart Orphanage at Sunnyside was bereft of its head in the person of Mother Bernard, and now again a visitation has taken place, and Mother Philomena who succeeded her, is laid to rest in the little plot of St. Joseph's community in St. Michael's cemetery. A stroke of paralysis followed by a week's illness and the once active and well known figure of Mother Philomena was laid low.

In the world the deceased Sister bore the name of Sheridan—a name brilliant in Irish literary ranks—and was a native of the County Cavan, Ireland. Coming to this country in her early youth, she entered the community of St. Joseph at the age of twenty, and at the time of her death had accomplished fifty years of fruitful work in the religious life. During half a century and upwards her example to her community and to the world had been one of good deeds; among the places where she had labored were the outside districts of Barrie and Thorold, and the different institutions of the city under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph, had all known her care at some time during their existence. For ten years prior to the death of Mother Bernard she had as her assistant Mother Philomena, who then was appointed Rev. Mother of the Orphanage.

The loving and devoted attention which Mother Philomena gave to the hundreds of little ones under her charge, was eloquently spoken to by the audible grief of the long rows of weeping children who formed a guard of honor in the long hall through which the funeral cortege passed after the Mass of Requiem. The Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Murray, C.S.B., assisted by Rev. Father O'Donnell, as deacon, and Rev. Father L. Minnehan as sub-deacon. Very Rev. Vicar-General McCann represented the Archbishop, and the other priests present were Rev. Fathers W. McCann, J. Walsh, McIntee, Cruise, P. Kiernan, Ryan, C.S.B., Frachon, C.S.B., Hand, Gallagher, Rhoades, J. P. Treacy, D.D., Gibbons, O'Neill, C.S.B., and Dodsworth, C.S.S.R. The chapel was filled with the orphan boys and girls of the institution, and many from the different parishes who had come to honor the memory and pray for the soul of the deceased lady. Doctors McKenna and McKeown, who always show a kindly interest in the orphanage were also present.

The Vicar-General, Very Rev. Father McCann, spoke shortly but impressively from the text "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, they shall rest from their labors, saith the Spirit, and their works shall follow them." The Sisters' choir sang the music of the Mass, and the "De Profundis" at the Offertory. After the Absolution given by the Vicar-General, the coffin was carried from the chapel by six Sisters of the community. As the solemn procession of bowed and veiled Sisters moved down the aisle, the children broke into uncontrollable weeping, and thus amidst tears and prayers was Mother Philomena, the loved and kindly superior-borne from her last earthly home. May she rest in peace.

CHARITY SERMONS.

A large congregation assembled at St. Paul's Church on Sunday evening last, when a sermon was delivered by Rev. Father J. Walsh, of St. Helen's, and a special appeal was made in behalf of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The first part of the Rev. preacher's address was a scholarly exposition contrasting charity in pagan times, and under the Christian dispensation. In the days when the philosophies of Greece and Rome governed the civilized world, it was thought a weakness in the character of man, if he harbored either charity or mercy towards the distress of his fellow-man. Then came the birth of the Divine Child at Bethlehem, and with it a change; the doctrine taught henceforth was "little children love one another, for by this shall men know that ye are my disciples."

The Rev. speaker then led his listeners on, down through the catacombs and the early days of the Church, and through the middle ages and on again to the present time, showing that ever from the beginning has the Church been the fruitful mother of charity.

In referring to the work done by the religious orders in this connection, Father Walsh spoke of that done in our midst by the Good Shep-

herds and the Sisters of Saint Joseph, and here the speaker paid an eloquent tribute to the late Mother Philomena, saying that nothing could speak more loudly of what had been done by this good woman, than the tears of the rows of orphans as she was being borne from their midst.

Another point emphasized, was the particular and sympathetic kindness we should have towards those who have become poor through force of circumstances, and not through any negligence of their own. To this class the most delicate consideration is due, and it is the members of the great Order of St. Vincent de Paul who, in most cases, know how to deal with such, if they are but given the means to carry out their labors and plans.

An earnest appeal for assistance on the present occasion brought this fine discourse to a close, and the results were at once evidenced by the generous response shown by the well-filled collection plates. Rev. Father O'Donnell, then gave Benediction, during which the tones of a wonderfully sweet organ were heard to advantage and the "Tantum Ergo" was sung with fine effect.

It may be interesting to recall that St. Paul's is the oldest parish in Toronto, and the present Church the third built on the site. The new Church built by Bishop O'Mahoney is in imitation of St. Peter's, and presents a very fine appearance from an architectural point of view. The interior decorations are not as yet completed, but every year something is being added, the erection of exquisite Stations a short time since, being a great addition.

ITALY, PICTURE AND STORY.

The above is to be seen and heard at Association Hall on Wednesday evening, Nov. 25th, and is to be presented by the ever welcome Mr. Frank Yeigh. The funds are to go towards the debt on the Precious Blood Convent, and the entertainment is one of

a series rendered necessary by the doing away of the old annual bazaar.

AN INTERESTING DEBATE.

The first of a series of debates arranged by the International Club Debating Union, took place at the hall of St. Basil's C. U., on Thursday, Nov. 12th. The hall, which is part of St. Michael's College building, was filled with an audience containing representatives from every part of the city. In the unavoidable absence of the President, the chair was taken by Mr. John Ferguson, second Vice-president of the Catholic Students' Union, who filled the office in a most efficient manner. Rev. Doctor Treacy, Mr. J. J. Seitz and Mr. T. J. O'Connor were the judges for the evening. The debaters were Messrs. Cicero and Desrochers, representing St. Mary Club for the affirmative, and Messrs. W. H. McGuire, B.A., and McCarthy representing the Catholic Students' Union for the negative. Subject of debate, Resolved: that the United States System of Government is better than the English.

Both sides were well argued, the speaking on the affirmative being characterized by enthusiasm, but the judges decided in favor of the negative. In view of the fact that both representatives on the affirmative were using a language other than their own—Mr. Cicero knowing no English two years ago, and the native tongue of Mr. Desrochers being that of sunny France—the speaking on this side was remarkable. The arguments for the negative were conducted according to the acknowledged rules of debate, and with the logical reasoning of trained students. Rev. Doctor Treacy announced the judges' decision, and complimented both sides on the information they had given, and on the manner in which the debate had been carried on. A vote of thanks to the judges, speeches by the Hon. President, Mr. E. V. O'Sullivan, and Mr. J. D. O'Donoghue, B.C.L., and L.L.B., who

organized the Inter-national Club, together with a humorous recitation "the putting up of the stove," by Mr. Thibodeau, brought a most instructive and interesting evening to a close.

FATHER COYLE IN CHARGE.

At the High Mass on Sunday, Rev. Father Coyle took charge of the new parish of the Holy Family. After the Communion he gave his first address to his new parishioners. Father Coyle said it gave him great pleasure to be amongst them, because he had been sent by Almighty God and by the representative of Almighty God. "I expect to do nothing wonderful," said the speaker, "but merely to carry on this work of my predecessor, and if I am able to do it half as well as it was done in the past I shall be more than satisfied. He spoke of the large debt which they knew existed and reminded his hearers that it was they who would have to pay it, though he would cooperate with them to the utmost. Father Coyle ended his short address which was throughout an expression of earnestness, frankness and humility by asking the prayers of the congregation to enable him to carry on his mission, which was to sanctify the souls of his people, and unless he had the necessary virtues himself, he could not hope to influence others. The pretty Church looked quite inviting in honor of the occasion, and the music of the Mass, together with an "O Salutaris" sung at the Offertory by Mr. Frank Carton, of St. Mary's parish, were well rendered under the direction of the able organist, Miss Mollie O'Donoghue.

CONDOLENCE.

At a recent meeting of Division No. 5, A.O.H., the esteemed President, Mr. W. D. Guilfoyle, received the sincere sympathy of the members in the loss which he had sustained by the death of his brother.



ARMORY HALL,
Cathcart Street.
IN COMMEMORATION OF THE
Manchester Martyrs
Monday, Nov. 23rd, 1903
Grand Entertainment and Reception to
Mr. CHAS. R. DEVLIN,
M.P. for Galway, Ireland.
By Division No. 1, Ancient Order of Hibernians,
And under the distinguished patronage of
His Worship Mayor COCHRANE, M.P.P., who
has kindly consented to preside.
Address by the eloquent "Man for Galway," Mr. CHAS. R. DEVLIN, on the
"Work and Aims of the Irish Parliamentary Party."
Choice program of Irish, vocal and instrumental music by artists of ability, assisted by the Boys' Choir of St. Ann's Church, under the direction of Mr. P. J. SHEA.
Tickets 25c and 50c. Doors open at 7 p.m. RECEPTION AT 8 P.M.
JAS. McIVER, Sec.
GOD SAVE IRELAND.

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SITUATION VACANT.

WANTED.—A general servant for one flat. References required. Apply after 7 p.m. to Mrs. Harrison, 666 Sherbrooke street.



Arrival!

It must not be supposed from the position of the animals in the above picture that these wild beasts reach us in the living state.

It is just as allegory, in order to indicate that we buy at the very source of fur, and also that the skins always reach us complete and in the best possible condition

Everyone remembers the recent sensational arrest of schemers who sold furs made up from odds and ends obtained at low prices in several Montreal establishments.

It is, therefore, of the highest importance to deal with an establishment which has been in existence for a quarter of a century, and which has the biggest list of customers of any store on the Continent, and the largest and best stock in all America.

The other portion of the above picture shows the winter elegance of our beautiful "creations." As can be seen, it is a happy transformation, and in the quantity of our stylish patterns we offer fully double what can be obtained at other stores in Montreal.

It is only necessary to go through our great fur room to be convinced of the immensity of our trade.

The discounts off our purchases permit us to offer

"25 p.c. to 40 p.c. better value than elsewhere for the same price."

This will never cease to be realized in the offerings at our counters.

We repeat, go elsewhere, compare, judge the article and the price, then come to see us. In this way you will buy judiciously and advantageously.]

Chas. Desjardins & Co.,

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THE YOUNG MEN.

Don's reputation as a photographer, particularly of composite groups, has been of great service to the Young Men's Association. His recent production is a group of the Young Men's Association, and reflects the high character of the group.