

THE CANADIAN

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Members are invited to send us items of
news or information that will be of benefit
to the Association. Communications upon
subjects of interest to C. M. B. A. members
will always be welcome, but anonymous
letters and letters which the Manager does
not consider for the face of the Associa-
tion will not be published.

Correspondents will please remember that
copy must reach us before the 15th of the
month, if intended for publication in the
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limited and brevity much desired.

Address all communications to
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Editor and Manager,
34 Queen's Ave., London, Ont.

LONDON, APRIL, 1894.

C. M. B. A. AND THE DUTY.

Although the insurance feature of our grand Association, because of its surety and great cheapness, has in those columns and in our circulars and literature generally, received the lion's share of attention, no intelligent member will lose sight of the fact that the C. M. B. A. was primarily instituted for the higher and nobler purpose of bettering its membership morally, socially and intellectually. It is then a Catholic institution, first, last and always; and anything calculated to obscure this fundamental principle has at all times in its history been strenuously put aside. It is certainly a splendid thing, and a strict duty, to provide temporarily for those dependent upon us, by means of insurance; but it is a higher and more urgent duty to protect ourselves in our Holy Faith, in order that "the necessary thing," the salvation of our souls, may be secured.

The first question which is put to the applicant for membership in the C. M. B. A., is, "Are you a practical Catholic?" An affirmative answer is required, otherwise admission is impossible. And it is not sufficient to be a practicing member of our Holy Church merely at the time of application; we must continue so to be, or falling in this, merit expulsion from the Association.

Every Spiritual Director of a branch has the right left him by the constitution to declare what constitutes a practical Catholic. He may impose upon his parishioners certain special obligations, but there is no priest or no branch which will not exact the fulfilment of at least the Easter precept as an essential condition for all. The church requires her children, under pain of "exclusion from her fold while living, and the deprivation of Christian burial when they die, to receive Holy Communion at Easter, or within the time appointed."

Now, while allowance might not of our great charity be made sometimes for certain poor, foolish sinners of Catholics, ignorant of their religion and the victims of an adverse environ-

ment, for neglect of the Easter duty, and while such neglect is alas too often observed, how can we for a moment attempt to excuse, in this regard, members of our Association, who should not only be Catholics, but practical Catholics, men whose light should shine before all, and whose example could be appealed to at all times confidently.

To presume for a moment that any neglect obtains on this important matter amongst us is to declare those against whom the presumption is levelled, either in ignorance of the obligations they have assumed, or lost to all sense of our common Catholicity. We need not discuss these two unfortunate conditions. The C. M. B. A. is made up of the flower of Canada's Catholic manhood, and as such ought not to be either ignorant or perverse in its membership.

As Catholics, alive to the benefits of our religion and obedient to the loving command of its Divine Founder, we must be at all times desirous, knowing its value to the spiritual life, of receiving that precious food He gives us in the Blessed Eucharist. His own "body, blood and soul and divinity," "Take ye and eat: This is My body."—Matt., xxvi., 26. "He that eateth this Bread shall live forever."—John, vi., 59. It is a salutary practice, then, to go to holy communion often; but, whatever befalls us, we should at Easter time prepare ourselves for its worthy reception. And let us approach the Holy Table in a body as much as possible, if our Spiritual Directors are agreed, so that we may make the formal public profession of faith under our own banners, and thus show to the world our uncompromising Catholicity. The Easter communion, made in a body, will also serve to endear our branches to their respective Catholic communities, and as a sweet odor attract many good men to their membership.

It is not necessary to say that as a safeguard against non-compliance with the duty, the Spiritual Adviser is held to assure each branch that its members are practical Catholics, and to avoid any mistake, he should look over the whole list of membership at Eastertide. In the case of non-resident members he should receive a certificate of Easter duty accomplished, from their own pastor; and not only this, but the pastor should inform such Spiritual Adviser that the bearer of the certificate is a "practical Catholic" in every sense of the word. The C. M. B. A. cannot afford to have any suspicion rest on its members' Catholicity.

Let all our members, then, recall their obligation toward God and Mother Church at this season, and obey promptly and faithfully the Easter precept, showing themselves thus in spiritual life in the Holy Eucharist, and in this way purchasing blessings personal and fraternal for time and eternity.

REV. A. E. BURKE, B. D.

The Rev. Alfred E. Burke, who has recently been nominated by the Grand President to the position of Grand Deputy for Prince Edward Island, of which he has been the District Deputy since the C. M. B. A. was introduced two years ago, is one of the best and most widely known clergymen in Canada. He was born at Georgetown, of Irish parents, his grandfather being from Gallant Tipperary, in 1860, and consequently has just completed his 35th year. Having made his preparatory studies at the High School of his native town, where he won a scholarship for the County of Kings, and later at St. Dunstan's College, he commenced his philosophical studies at Laval University in 1881, and immediately upon their completion entered the Grand Seminary of Quebec to study for the priesthood. Here he remained, taking the regular degrees until May 30th, 1885, when the late Bishop McIntyre, feeling the urgent need of more priests obliged him to receive ordination to the priesthood one year before the completion of his term. Returning to his own diocese he was immediately named Secretary to the Bishop, and discharged the duties of that position, as well as giving much assistance in parochial work in preaching and lecturing, with the great energy and marked ability which has always characterized him. In 1888 Father Burke was named to the pastoral charge of Alberton, where he has remained ever since, building up the ecclesiastical institutions and attending to the spiritualities of his mission. Prince Edward Islanders can tell how perfectly he has performed this difficult work. But, besides the efforts made for his own church, Father Burke has always stood in the fore front of every movement undertaken in the interests of his Province, regardless of class, creed or nationality. He is known all over Canada, too, as a broad, progressive and patriotic Canadian, and has brought his wise counsel, energetic manners and captivating personality to the successful consideration and adoption of many projects of great value to the whole country. Father Burke has studied and reported upon the colonization problems of this Northwest for the C. P. R. and the Government, visiting that rich and practically limitless granary three successive times in as many years, and also the American Northwest, where in the winter of 1893 he was the guest of the Illustrious Archbishop Ireland, at St. Paul, while he looked into the great work done by that prairie in the planting of colonies in Minnesota and the Western States. In company with a distinguished party, Father Burke, as the guest of the C. P. R., visited British Columbia in 1892. The present Minister of Agriculture, Hon. D. Ferguson, was one of the party, and well-informed Island-

ers assert that it was largely to Father Burke's influence, persuasiveness and provincial patriotism (he went to Ottawa with Senator Prorose on a special mission at the time), that Prince Edward Island was given representation in the Cabinet. United Canada had this to say of his presence at the Capital in December, 1891:

"Father Burke, of Prince Edward Island, to whom much of the credit is due for having secured representation in the Cabinet, for the Island, has been here for some days. He is a very young man, and is highly regarded by all classes in his native Province."

In 1891 the new Grand Deputy was the first to introduce, at the suggestion of Grand Deputy O'Keefe, of St. John, the C. M. B. A. into Prince Edward Island, and has worked for the Association in a manner calculated to earn the gratitude of every loyal brother. He was an active member of the St. John Convention, where he served on important committees. In his own Province, where the Association is spreading every day, he never ceases to speak of its merits from a Catholic, intellectual, or insurance point of view, and his frequent visits to the branches are sure to elicit a most salutary and desirable enthusiasm. Father Burke's pen, too—and he wields a powerful and fruitful one—is often very well employed in our own and the secular press, for the good of the Association. Indeed, he is a model officer in every regard, and we only hope that his example may be more generally imitated. It were impossible in a short sketch like this to include all Grand Deputy Burke's claims to prominence, and even now we fear to have offended his well-known modesty. It will suffice to quote the closing words of his biography in "Men of Canada," to which we are indebted for most of the facts of this sketch, to conclude:

"Father Burke is a fluent and able preacher, a frequent contributor to the press, and as such wields a trenchant pen, into which he instills all his energetic manner and wide knowledge. He is untiring in his efforts in every good cause which has for its aim the advancement of morality. He is very popular not only with his own people, but with all who have the privilege of knowing him. He is a young man, and doubtless high honors are in store for him."

FRATERNAL WELCOME TO Bp. O'CONNOR

C. M. B. A. RECEPTION TO HIS LORDSHIP.

A GRACEFUL ADDRESS OF GREETING—A GRACEFUL AND GRATEFUL REPLY—ADDRESSES BY ARCHDEACON CASEY, MR. T. CASHILL AND OTHERS—A GOOD MUSICAL PROGRAMME PRESENTED.

Though the formal welcome of the C. M. B. A. Society to His Lordship Bishop O'Connor was the last of the series, yet that of last night could not be ranked as the least. The hall in the Cox Block, tastefully decorated, was crowded with members of the C.