

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.

SATURDAY JUNE 8, 1901.

Notes of the Week.

THE WORD "DELPIIT."—At the Hamilton Conference, on the 31st May last, Rev. Dr. Williams, of Montreal, in the course of an address upon the \$514,000 debt of the St. James Methodist Church, took occasion to tell his hearers that they should "remember the word 'Delpit' as meaning one of the most aggressive movements in the most daring and frightful manner that has ever been intended to encroach upon the rights of Protestantism." What the word "Delpit" has to do with the half million of dollars that the big church on St. Catherine street carries in the form of a debt is more than we can tell; but the reverend gentleman's definition of the word is as lengthy as it is confusing. Henceforth when the "Daily Witness" or some other zealous Protestant organ wants to tell of some "most aggressive movement," that is at once "daring and frightful," provided it is "intended to encroach upon the rights of Protestantism," it will state that someone seeks to "Delpit." In all probability, only Catholics will be found "Delpiting," certainly, according to the definition, only Protestantism can be "Delpited." Rev. Mr. Williams has rendered one service at least, for he has made it possible for others to express in one word what he requires twenty-five words to convey.

ABOUT HUMAN EARS.—Some forty thousand pairs of human ears have been systematically examined in France and England, and we are told that some interesting conclusions have been the result. Very naturally! According to the report we find that:—

"It is ascertained that the ear continues to grow in the later decades of life; in fact, it appears never to stop growing until death. If one will take the trouble to look around in any assemblage of people, as at church, he will discover that the old folks have ears considerably larger than those of the middle-aged. A woman who has small, shell-like ears at twenty years of age, will be very apt to possess medium-sized ears at forty years and large ears at sixty. Why ears should go on growing all one's life, any more than noses, is a mystery. There are a good many other points, about them that are instructive, their shapes being markedly persistent through heredity. An ear will be handed down, so to speak, from father to son for generation after generation with comparatively little modification. Some authorities on criminology assert that criminals are very apt to possess a peculiar kind of ear which is recognizable by an expert in such matters."

The fact of the ears growing larger, (and longer) as life advances, may be a justification of Voltaire's assertion that "men grow more stupid and ass-like with years"—not excepting himself we expect. But the handing down of an ear from one generation to another, is not a likely proceeding, unless the ear has been specially embalmed, or accidentally petrified.

SECRET SOCIETIES.—Here is a despatch dated Des Moines, Ia., May 24, which will make interesting reading, and which has been published in almost every daily paper on the continent:—

"The important topic to-day before the United Presbyterian general assembly was revision of the creed, which provides that no member of any secret society can be a member of the church. The matter was hotly discussed for more than two hours, but final decision was postponed till later in the session. Masonic and Odd Fellows orders were special objects of attack, one delegate going so far as to say he believed no member of a secret society could ever reach heaven. Henry Wallace of Des Moines favored revision, stating as a reason that men go to secret societies because the church creed was too narrow. Dr. James Crowe of Philadelphia was particularly bitter

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cross, in order that he may wear it on his breast, as it is customary to do with other decorations." This short letter speaks volumes. The honor conveyed by it is one that Sir William must keenly appreciate, and that every Catholic, especially every Irish Catholic, in Montreal must consider as a most highly merited mark of Papal recognition. We know of no Catholic layman, either here or elsewhere, whose career in every sense more thoroughly corresponds with the ideals of the Church, than does that of Sir William Hingston; the fact, however, of such a practical and direct appreciation of this truth, especially when coming from the heart of Christendom and from the Vicar of Christ, enhances beyond the power of words to express, the auspiciousness of the event. Long may Sir William live to enjoy the marked approbation of the greatest of living men, as well as the greatest of modern Pontiffs.

TO "INQUIRER."—A correspondent signing "Inquirer," asks: "Who are allowed to occupy pulpits in the Roman Catholic Church for the purpose of preaching? We can simply answer: Whomsoever the Episcopal authorities permit to occupy such pulpit?"

MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART

June is the most beautiful month of the year. Nature seems to have completely cast off every remnant of winter's cold grip, the longest days of the year have come, the sun sheds light in excess of any other month, and warmth that is more genial than over-powering. It is meet that this month should be selected by the church as one specially consecrated to the Sacred Heart. Our readers are doubtless aware that the gifted and beloved Archbishop of Montreal has placed his episcopal career under the particular protection of the Sacred Heart, and that he is ever solicitous for the propagation and expansion of that glorious devotion.

The Holy Father has expressed, even encyclically, his wish that the world should return to a truer and more worthy recognition of the Infinite merits of the Redeemer; and the League of the Sacred Heart, which now counts its membership by tens of thousands all over the civilized world, seems to have become the principal medium whereby the race of man is to be saved from the vortex of infidelity into which it has been so powerfully drawn during the last half of the late century. From the stately basilica that crowns the summit of Montmartre beams of light, heat and life radiate forth, imparting great hope wheresoever they fall—the light illumines the highway of existence with the brilliancy of true Faith, the heat generates in the Christian soul the warmth of devotional fervor, and the life paves the avenue to eternal happiness in the society of the Sacred Heart.

During this month, as is the case in the months of St. Joseph and of the Blessed Virgin—March and May—special prayers and services are held every day in each Catholic Church. The wayfarer, covered with the dust of the world's highway and parched with the fever of earthly pursuits, finds a few moments reserved for him during which he may find rest and fresh vigor in the shade of the sanctuary and in presence of the Sacred Heart of the Redeemer. The prayer that goes up from the human heart to the Heart of Jesus must necessarily be most effective. It is a direct communication between earth and heaven, man and God, the redeemed and the Redeemer. Naturally the answer to such a prayer must be immediate, coming direct, without passing through any of the intermediary channels so frequently used to transmit graces and favors from the Saviour to His children on earth. None can afford to neglect the countless spiritual advantages that the devotion of this holy month afford, and we trust that each and all of our readers will participate in the blessings that flow over the Christian world from the Infinite source of all good—the fountain of the Sacred Heart.

THE TRUE CHRISTIAN FATHER.

Gavan Duffy writing on the death of Davis said: "Great men, wonderful men are few, but good men and true men are to be found in numbers—men who are moving silently, like a spirit in the bosom of society, and making the world better by their presence and their lives." Of such men we frequently meet examples and we bow down before them in silent admiration, we feel that we could bless them as they pass by, and we know that to them we, in common with all our fellow-men, owe a deep debt of gratitude. It sometimes happens, in the course of

journalism, that slight incidents occur that tend to reveal, all unintentionally on their part, the presence amongst us of men such as the great Irish patriot has described. As a rule these good men avoid all notoriety and it is rarely that the journalist has the right to do them justice. At this moment we are confronted with one of these examples of great and true Christian virtue, and while we have no permission to use names, we cannot refrain from publishing the communication that has given rise to these reflections. The writer of the following letter will pardon us for the liberty we take, when we inform him that his beautiful message may be the means of much good.

The letter reads thus:—
"To the Managing Director of the 'True Witness,' etc., etc., Montreal, P.Q.
"Enclosed please find one dollar as renewal of my subscription; in all probability the last to my address, as over three-fourths of a century have passed over my head. My sight is so far gone that I find it very difficult to read the 'True Witness,' but we have been so long and so intimately acquainted with each other, I might say from its infancy, that I desire its company for the few remaining days of my life. My hearing has almost departed from me, and my family find trouble in making me understand. The members of my family are all well versed in French and English; nine of my daughters received their education in convents; three of them have entered the community (Assumption), three others are engaged in business. Four boys have received a college education. One is an M.D., one is a priest, another is in a store, and the fourth now making his classical studies. As all the family have procured the means to make an honest living, I am reconciled to leave them when it shall please God to call me to I hope a happy home."

Does such a letter need any comment? On reading it we felt that we were in presence of a living example of the true Catholic parent. Here is a man who has lived a long and active life, raised a large family, leaves them all provided for, has educated each of them to the highest, has given three daughters and one son to the Church, has started others along the way of commercial prosperity, has taught them their duties to God and to the Church, has kept a Catholic paper constantly in his home, has fulfilled his every duty to God, Church, country and family, and who is now prepared and glad to go to the reward that has been promised to "the good and faithful servant."

When a man of this class dies it can truly be said of him, in the vibrating words of Holy Writ: "He has run his course, he has fought the good fight, he has kept the Faith."
Can all the honors that the great can bestow, all the positions that ambition can secure, all the wealth that industry can accumulate, procure for a man one moment of the confidence, hopefulness, contentment, peace and real happiness which constitute the share of this grand old Catholic citizen? What a model for each one of us to follow.

Some years ago we knew a man whose long life had been one of unceasing activity, and whose last moments were so peaceful that one almost envied him the happiness of dying. In conversation, a few hours before his death, he said: "I have had 86 years of life, I feel that it is more than my share, I am perfectly contented to go to a long rest. As I now look back I cannot recall an act done or a word said by me that I would now have changed. I owe no man a cent, and I never had an enemy. I was baptized into the Church, to the best of my ability I have followed for eighty years her rules, and I am now going away with her Extreme Unction upon me. Friend, live that when you come to be where I now find myself, you will be able to say what I now say, and to face God with the words on your lips."

This was not any self-praise or self-exaltation. It was a father, who had led a purely Catholic life, seeking, on his deathbed, to impress upon his son the necessity of preparing, by a good life, for the inevitable end. Such examples are calculated to impart courage to the wavering, strength to the feeble, assurance to the hesitating, and "to show to those whose faith is halting and whose fears are gathering strength, what the simplicity of the patriarchs, the piety of the saints, and the patience of the martyrs have not wholly vanished from the earth."

THE FETE DIEU.

Although the old-time feast of Corpus Christi is no longer one of obligation, still the grand and imposing ceremonies of "Procession Sunday" are continued as in former years. To-morrow will be "Procession Sunday," and the day will witness a repetition of the usual annual procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of the city. This is truly a great occasion for Catholics. It is one of the most public opportunities afforded for an open profession of Faith. The bearing of the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of the city, the decorations and embellishments that mark the route of procession, the spectacle of the clergy in full canonicals, the accompanying acolytes, thurifers, and cross-bearers, the multitudes kneeling with uncovered heads and seriously devout expressions, the swelling of the sublime hymns which the Church prescribes for such occasions, and the atmosphere of Faith that hangs over all, are calculated to impress the non-Catholic world with the sincerity of our belief and the splendor of our religion.

CATHOLIC FORESTERS.

The Provincial Convention of the Catholic Order of Foresters, Province of Quebec, will be convened at Fraserville on Tuesday morning next. The delegates from Montreal and adjoining towns west will leave by Intercolonial Railway from G. T. R. Depot on Monday at noon, picking up the remaining delegates on the route, as every town of any importance has now its court of Catholic Foresters. The Order is now composed in this province of 194 courts, having 14,162 members. The convention will total 206 delegates. The English-speaking courts of Montreal will be represented by the following delegates: Brothers M. J. Flanagan and M. P. McDermid, of the Provincial Court; Bro. A. A. Paterson, Court 95; Bro. A. F. O'Connell, of 126; Bro. M. J. Brogan, 133; Bro. H. P. Whiting, 149; Bro. J. J. Ryan, 164; Bro. P. Cantwell, 185; Bro. T. J. Holland, 263; Bro. J. Brady, 378; Bro. J. Bourdeau, 622, and Bro. J. O'Toole, 1091.

COMING EVENTS

IN OUR PARISHES.

A HALL NOW.—Next week, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the parishioners of St. Patrick's and other Irish parishes will have an opportunity of helping a most worthy undertaking—the erection of a hall for the parent Irish parish—a project which Rev. Father Quinlivan and the ladies of the parish have had in view for some time past. In order to inaugurate the undertaking in a practical form it has been decided to hold a series of social festivities on the above mentioned days. The first two days will be devoted to a lawn party, a form of entertainment which is not new to our parishes, but which has been productive of much good in affording facilities, within the reach of all, to contribute to the welfare of parish institutions and to cultivate a spirit of friendly intercourse between the parishioners. On the evening of the last mentioned day a grand euchre party will be held when beautiful prizes will be offered for competition. The children of the parish will be afforded an opportunity of assisting at the lawn party, as the committee has made arrangements to entertain them in the afternoons.

ENGLAND'S CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL.

The new Catholic cathedral at Westminster, London, England, which is now rapidly nearing completion, was thrown open to the people for the first time last week, and during the day was visited by a large number of persons. The interior cannot yet be seen at its best owing to the amount of scaffolding which is still required by the workmen in giving the finishing touches to the various points, but though the general view is somewhat obstructed, the impression created is decidedly favorable. The tall, exquisitely colored marble columns running along either side of the nave produce a most imposing effect, and are the admiration of every visitor. Outside the building is just beginning to emerge from the network of scaffolding with which it was surrounded, and though the adjoining houses cut off from the view of the visitor in the street, the main thoroughfare is run to such a height that it is now one of the landmarks of London. The cathedral will be opened for service in July, and the occasion is eagerly looked forward to in Catholic circles in the metropolis.

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