

The True Witness

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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.....JANUARY 8, 1898

WORK FOR THE LAITY.

Few laymen seem to realize that their duties as Catholics do not cease with regular attendance at Mass and the reception of the sacrament of Holy Communion at least once a year. They forget that they should be, in many respects, the auxiliaries of the clergy. Some of them help to build up fine churches; but when the edifices are finished they think that their work is done. Yet the building of the churches is but the beginning of a good work. These churches have to be filled with earnest and practical congregations, and a considerable amount of routine parish work has to be performed. Lukewarm brethren have to be aroused to a sense of their duties, and inspired with the true Catholic spirit. It is by studying their religion that Catholic laymen will obtain this zeal for the spread of our holy faith, and for the performance of all the other work which that implies. Each layman has, so to speak, an individual mission in this direction of expanding Catholic influence and making it a great power in the land.

FRENCH-CANADIAN FREEMASONS

In a letter published in another column a correspondent asks some pertinent questions with regard to the "Cours Unis" lodge of Freemasons in this city. Obviously the reason why the names of the officers elected annually are never published together with those of the other lodges is because nearly all of them are, nominally, Catholics, and hold positions in the public affairs of Montreal from which they would be driven by their indignant electors if it were known that they were members of this secret sect, which has been so repeatedly condemned by the Church. The day is perhaps not far distant when the names of the members of "Cours Unis" Masonic lodge will be given to the French-Canadian public, who will in that event be astounded at the duplicity of many of their representatives. Those who have joined this sect have done so from a motive of personal gain, reaping their reward in the patronage they receive from wealthy Protestant Freemasons, engaged in various lines of business.

Regarding English Freemasons, we note that a contemporary characterizes as a desecration of the Protestant Cathedral of St. Paul, London, the fact that five thousand members of the craft attended the recent bi-centenary celebration of its erection. We say that, far from being a desecration, it was eminently appropriate that so large a number of the brethren should have been present. St. Paul's is almost the only religious pile of any note of which English Protestantism can boast that was not torn from Catholic owners and appropriated to the new diskernelled worship. It was built to replace the beautiful Gothic structure raised by Inigo Jones and destroyed in the great fire of 1686, and it is worthy of note by those who complain about St. Peter's in Rome being the fruit of general contributions of European Catholics that the money for building St. Paul's was levied off all the English counties, in some places by the gross compulsion of the Protestant squirearchy. St. Paul's cannot be regarded as a cathedral, in any strictly religious sense. It is a Freemason's edifice, built largely by Masonic subscriptions and the forced contributions of farmers, and it was right and proper that most of those who participated in the celebration should be people whose rites are semi-blasphemous and who are the banned enemies of the true Church of God.

REUNION OF IRISH NATIONALISTS

In Ireland the New Year has opened under circumstances which augur well for the restoration to the Nationalist ranks of that unity of action the lack of which has had such deplorable results for so long a period. The necessity of union must have been apparent to both

the leaders and the rank, and file from the beginning of the factious strife; but so blinded have many of them been by personal ambition and partisan passion that even now the influences which are working for harmony are far from being as strong as they should be. Still, it must be a matter for sincere rejoicing to all friends of the cause of self-government for Ireland that a movement towards reunion has already started. The event that gave rise to this movement, or perhaps it would be more correct to say the event which formed a happy pretext for the inauguration of this movement, was the publication in the London Times of the "authorized programme" drawn up by the general committee of the National Liberal Federation at its recent meeting in Derby. In this programme, which becomes now that of the whole Liberal party, the question of Home Rule for Ireland is, for the first time since Mr. Gladstone espoused it with all his customary ardor and enthusiasm, relegated to a minor position, being preceded by those relating to electoral reform and to the abolition of the House of Lords. Speaking on this subject Mr. John E. Redmond, M.P., the leader of the Parliaments, stated that in his opinion Mr. John Dillon, M.P., "as representing the largest body of Nationalists," should put an end to the alliance which has existed between the National Party and the Liberals since 1886, when the late Mr. Parnell entered into it; and he went on to add these significant words: "What is essential is that the Irish people generally, those opposed to us as well as ourselves, should come to some understanding upon the question in the future. Let these men not imagine that because of the bitterness of the past we are unwilling to join hands with them on a sound policy in future." Here was a frank invitation to Mr. Dillon and his followers to let bygones be bygones, and to unite on a commonsense policy. The chairman of the Irish National Party lost no time in replying to the invitation. "I entirely agree," he proclaimed publicly, "with Mr. Redmond as to what he says is essential—that the people generally, and all of us who remain in Irish politics, should forget past bitterness, join hands, and come to a common understanding upon the question of future policy. If Mr. Redmond himself is really willing to act in the spirit of those words of his I do not believe there will be any difficulty in arriving at a common understanding as to policy among the Nationalists in Ireland."

It is scarcely to be believed that, after such overtures as these between the two chiefs, the parties which they lead will much longer remain separated. There will still remain the section led by Mr. Healy, it is true; but its members would be obliged by force of public opinion to cease their factious tactics and join the main body of Nationalists. The outlook for reunion, therefore, is full of hope, and that hope will, we trust, find fruition before the end of the year on which we have just entered.

MORALITY AND THE STAGE.

The stage has been the subject of more than the ordinary amount of adverse criticism of late. The Rev. Curé Troie, of Notre Dame Church, in this city, has exhorted his parishioners to abstain from going to theatres where plays which are immoral, or which are even of doubtful morality, are being represented in them. Catholics cannot be too careful in this respect; and they ought to be quick, moreover, to resent any allura that may be cast upon their religion in what may otherwise be an unexceptionable production. An opera which was recently presented in Montreal, and which bears the name of a character distinguished in Irish literature, has several of these blemishes. One is the passage in which a female character is made to say that if her lover was indifferent towards her she would "take the veil." Now, we protest against this assumption, so common with Protestants, that Catholic girls and women usually enter the religious life because of disappointed or unrequited love. If such a cause has created the motive in some cases, these cases are extremely exceptional.

In the pages of "Great Thoughts," Mr. Clement Scott, the leading dramatic critic in London, makes a very grave arraignment of the stage so far as those who play upon it are concerned. He declares positively that it is "almost impossible" for a woman to remain pure who adopts the stage as a profession; and he further expresses the opinion that there is no school on earth that is so bad for the formation of character, or that so readily, so quickly, and so inevitably brings out all that is worst in a man or woman, as the stage. These are sweeping statements, and yet Mr. Clement Scott—who, by-the-by, is a convert to the Church—has, as an author and a critic, been brought into closest contact for the past forty years with those who tread the boards. It is worthy of note that another distinguished convert—Mr. F. O. Burnand, editor of Punch, said much the same thing several years ago, and so deeply offended the great

comedian J. L. Toole, who had placed his daughter on the stage, that a friendship which had long existed was broken for ever. Yet Mr. Burnand, too, was, as a playwright, familiar with the subject on which he had written. Of course there are exceptions. Mr. Clement Scott admits this when he says it is "almost" impossible for an actress to be virtuous. But his assertion, taken in conjunction with that of Mr. Burnand, as to the general effect of the influence of the stage upon the morals of those who adopt it as a profession, must be accepted regretfully as being only too true.

GREATER NEW YORK.

The transformation of New York into Greater New York on New Year's Day was, when the magnitude of the interests involved in the change is concerned, the greatest civic event that has occurred on this continent. True, Chicago had already set an example of considerably enlarging its boundaries and its population; but its annexation of adjoining municipalities sinks into comparative insignificance when contrasted with that of the Empire City. By a stroke of the pen, as it were, New York has added to its population as many people as now comprise the total population of Chicago, and it has increased its area from 40 square miles to 320 square miles. The population of the "old" city of New York was, in round numbers, 2,000,000. Today, it is 3,400,000; while the population of the great western city is 1,488,000. New York is now the second city in the world in point of population. It is the first city in the world in point of social and scientific progress.

The lesson of the advancement and the enlargement of New York is not without its significance for the citizens of Montreal. Our city contains the elements of similarly marvellous progress. Its geographical position fits it to be in the future the leading port of this continent. Under enlightened administration, and fostered by wise and far-seeing federal assistance, the inauguration of Greater Montreal—a city comprising the whole island of that name—may be one of the events of the century which is speedily approaching.

MONSIGNOR CONATY'S JUBILEE.

Monsignor Conaty, the zealous and learned Rector of the great Catholic University at Washington, has just celebrated the silver jubilee of his priestly life. The professors and students held a notable demonstration in honor of the happy event, and presented him with a richly illuminated address from which a few extracts will no doubt be read with interest by the Irish Catholics of Montreal, who know him well and who hold him in affectionate esteem:

"You are the head of this important institution, called to the office by the episcopate of the country and by our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII. This alone is sufficient to explain why professors and students meet you to-night to congratulate you according to the custom of our country on the completion of twenty-five years' labor in the vineyard of the Lord. We know that it was your intention to celebrate this occasion in a private manner, and among the scenes of your former pastoral activity; but we feel at the same time that we constitute with you but a single family. We feel that all your thoughts and plans are for the upbuilding and perfection of this enterprise. We feel that you are toiling with singleness of purpose and sincerity of heart for the same ends as all the professors and all the students of this University—that is, the creation of a thoroughly equipped centre of all the higher studies in which the unvarying spirit, the genuine teachings of the glorious past of the Catholic Church shall receive the fullest recognition, and be presented in the forms best suited to the men of our time and our land. Your administration of the rectorship of the University has amply justified our hope and filled us with satisfaction that the work so nobly planned and so generously constructed will not suffer in your hands, but, on the contrary, be carried on in the spirit and according to the intentions of its founders and benefactors. We rejoice that we are able to blend to-day our joy over the long period of your service at the altar, in the confessional, in the pulpit, and in the public life of your native community with our joy at the successful completion of the first year of your rectorship."

It was in Montreal, as our readers are aware, that Monsignor Conaty finished his sacred studies; and it was here, too, that he was ordained to the priesthood. For this reason we regard him as being, in some sort, one of our own, and follow his brilliant career with sympathetic interest; and it is for this reason also that we rejoice with the professors and students of the Washington University, and with his former parishioners of Worcester, Mass., where he passed twenty-four out of twenty-five years of his fruitful ministry, upon so auspicious an occasion. And we join with them in the prayerful hope that he may long be spared to preside over the university which has been largely entrusted to use his own words, with "the destinies of the higher education of the Catholic clergy and laity of America."

We observe with great pleasure that a large number of Catholic newspapers published in the United States issued special Christmas numbers, which re-

flected the highest credit upon their conductors. Such enterprise on the part of our American contemporaries is a hopeful sign of the times.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Our Archbishop has been fortunate in the good impression he has created since his appointment. On every side, from Protestant and Catholic alike, we hear naught but kindly words. First impressions are not easily effaced. Mr. Bruchesi, whenever he has met the public, has made them feel that he is the right man in the right place. At the Catholic Sailors' Club, His Grace convinced the Jack Tars that in him they had a true friend and a fit successor of the fishermen who once cast their nets on the Sea of Galilee. At the meeting of the journalists he was the sympathetic, broad minded prelate, who knew the influence and value of the press, and was only solicitous to have that influence used to the best purpose. And at the Cathedral of St. James, on Wednesday last, after an interesting account of his voyage to Ireland and Rome, and his audience with the Holy Father, His Grace thus touched on the present situation:—

"Are we united as we should be? It seems to me, looking on you in this temple, that we are. But outside the impression is different. What is it that puts discord into hearts which should be united? It is self-love and a false idea of politics. If politics were kept in their place, if we had only in view the true good of the people, everything would soon be settled. The Pope and the bishops recognize that in a constitutional country, such as ours, it is impossible that all political parties should have the same opinion, because the day when they would be agreed would only be the eve of another disagreement. But while they may disagree on political questions, they should be united on religious questions. Why not put an end to this miserable party spirit which so blinds our people? Do you think that the clergy can intervene in a purely political question? Can you cite one instance in which the clergy has intervened in questions where religion was not concerned? But when a question concerns education, the clergy cannot be a disinterested party. The bishops have the spiritual direction of the faithful, and in questions of education the clergy is deeply interested. It is absolutely essential that our children should be instructed in all the religious matters on which depend their future welfare. His Holiness, Leo XIII, has spoken. He has given, in his message, the counsel which the faithful must follow. Let us hope that all Catholics will receive with respect and submission the dictates of the Holy Father. Let us hope also that Protestants will be glad to respect the rights which the Constitution has guaranteed to Catholics, and that the feelings excited in the past will disappear before the pacific words of Leo XIII. Let us all work together to hasten the day when there will be but one flock guided by the one Shepherd."

While no one can cavil at these words, it is quite evident that Mr. Bruchesi's path is not, by any means, going to be one of roses. He will have a great deal to do before he can educate the people of this Province to set aside party spirit, when higher and more sacred interests are at stake. His chief difficulty will be the selfish instincts of mere politicians who seek rather to take advantage of public opinion than to guide it. We have to-day the spectacle of a great political party, elected as a protest against the sins of former administrations, shaken by dissensions over the distribution of patronage, and we are on the eve of another effort to right the wrongs of the oppressed minority in Manitoba, which the Government pledged themselves to remove, but which still exist to darken what ought to be one of the brightest pages of our history.

In Mr. Bruchesi, however, the Catholics of Montreal feel they have a chief pastor who will do all that a zealous, accomplished and far-seeing spiritual guide can do to have the rights of their Church and the rights of conscience vindicated.

The administrators of our local clubs should take heart and not complain of the small debts they sometimes incur in connection with their organizations. The clubmen of New York are not so squeamish. The University Club of that city has placed a mortgage on its new premises for the sum of \$1,200,000, at 4 1/2 per cent., equal to an annual interest outlay of \$54,000. A big insurance company is quite delighted to have secured the loan. What is the matter with our clubs? Surely some of them, if they cannot get a mortgage on their property for that amount, could get one for a few dollars less.

A SUBSCRIBER from Cherry Valley, Ont., writes to us asking how it is that two pipers have been mentioned as having distinguished themselves at the famous charge of the Gordon Highlanders, at Dargal Ridge, and inquiring what is the nationality of both. There were two pipers amongst the Gordon Highlanders at the time of the charge, and like about forty per cent of the remainder of the "Highlanders," they are both Irish. As to the query in reference to Lord Charles Beresford, it should be stated that he holds no position in the British Government. He is, however, a Rear Admiral in the British Navy.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

How are your good resolutions keeping? Don't forget all about them.

The trouble about a self-made man is that you can generally notice the crude handwork of the maker.

No man ever saw another man do anything without discovering that he could do it a great deal better himself.

A feminine observer says that if you walk straight up to your troubles they will turn out to be only half as large as they looked at a distance.

Again the "new woman." This time she appears in the role of a "motor-woman." Mrs. Mable Brierly, of Middletown, N.Y., has been given a position on the Middletown-Goshen Traction Co.'s line to run an electric car. She was given a thorough trial by the superintendent, and was declared to be as capable as a man.

We have received a copy of a new weekly publication called Le Mouvement Catholique, which is issued at Three Rivers, with the approbation of the Venerable Bishop Lafleche. There is plenty of work to be done in the field of endeavor which it has entered, and we hope it may abundantly succeed in attaining the high purpose at which it aims.

PROBABLY the most brilliant reception ever held at the Archiepiscopal Palace was that which took place on New Year's Day. The Catholics of the city seemed delighted that so early an opportunity was afforded of greeting His Grace, each personally, on his safe return to Montreal and on the distinction he enjoyed while absent of being in such frequent and close communion with the Holy Father.

It isn't every day that a plain everyday man suddenly acquires such power and control as that which is fallen to the lot of Mayor Van Wyck, of New York. He governs 300 square miles of territory, 3,337,798 people, with a staff of 50,000 employees, a salary list of \$30,000,000 and the expenditure of \$75,000,000 for the support of the city and the extension of its public improvements. That's not so bad for a plain man.

ATTENTION is drawn by the London Tablet to the interesting fact that the founders of three great religious orders were class-mates at St. Leonard's, Aix-la-Chapelle; being Clara Fey, who founded the Order of the Poor Child Jesus at Aix-la-Chapelle; Francisca Schervier, founder of the Poor Franciscanesses, also of Aix-la-Chapelle, and Pauline Von Mallinckrodt, who established the Order of the Sisters of Christian Charity, which has now 98 houses and 1215 Sisters in the United States.

The New Year's number of La Presse of this city was as remarkable as a journalistic feat as it was welcome as an evidence of good will towards its fellow-citizens of different nationalities and creeds. Its front page was taken up with polyglot greetings, those addressed to the Irish being in Gaelic; the English, in English; to the Germans, in German; to the Italians, in Italian, etc. It was a happy thought on the part of its proprietor, and was successfully carried out.

The Western Watchman, of St. Louis, Mo., edited by that doughty Catholic journalist, Father Phelan, puts the published summaries of the Pope's letter to the Canadian episcopate on the Manitoba school case in a nutshell, thus:—

"The Encyclical of the Holy Father on the Manitoba School Question has not yet reached this country; but from what we learn from the synopsis of the London papers, we can say that it is thoroughly in line with the attitude of this paper. Use the public schools if you must; have your own schools if you can."

THOSE seem to live longest in the affection of their fellow-men who in their wills remember the poor and the educational institutions of the communities in which they spent their days. Instances are constantly occurring to support this proposition, and it is always a pleasing duty to record such evidences of respectful gratitude. It is noticeable and regrettable, however, that Protestants are generally the subjects of these occasions. A recent illustration of large-hearted benevolence and public spirit was given at the annual dinner of the Alumni of the Massachusetts Institute, one being for \$300,000 and the other for \$700,000. It was further stated that, exclusive of and prior to these bequests, the amount donated to the Institution by its friends was \$1,889,642.

A CORRESPONDENT in the Weekly World, Chatham, Miramichi Co., N.B., who is described as "The Poet Pilgrim," and who signs himself "Wm. Joseph Garvey Cashin Hayes," in a long rambling letter protests against "the Irish, and Irish Canadians especially," taking part in the celebration of the centennial of 1798. His reason is that, England being "the servant of God," its

enterprises and operations as a great physical force in the interests of Christianity are evidently of Divine appointment." If Mr. Hayes will read the history of England's "physical force" in Ireland, especially in Cromwell's time and during the Penal Laws, he will see at once that his description of England's enterprises and operations is nothing short of blasphemy.

HON. JUDGE JETTE has accepted the high office of Lieutenant Governor of Quebec Province. While the Bar of Montreal will feel his loss, it will rebound to the general advantage of the Province, as never a more worthy gentleman was ever elevated to the high office which he will shortly assume.

THE Witness seems very anxious to have the encyclical letter in the Manitoba School Question read, and in almost every issue it has some reference to it. Let it possess its soul in patience. It, like a lot of its contemporaries, has wasted a lot of ink in idle speculation. That is one of the weak points of belonging to the separated Church. Catholics from the very beginning of the discussion had never any doubt as to the final result of the matter, nor indeed did they feel any anxiety about it. They can well afford to leave their interests in the hands of His Holiness Pope Leo, who as father of the faithful cannot err.

A PREMATURE obituary notice of Prince Bismarck appeared in an American paper, in connection with the report of his death, which gained currency on New Year's Day. The paper in question remarked on the coincidence of his death occurring just as Germany was on the eve of carrying out the ex-Chancellor's theory of "blood and iron." It said his death had "been long expected, and perhaps the great German died with a smile of content that he should not see the Empire he helped to found sink into contempt under the guidance of the insane ruler who dismissed him." "Friends and foes," the notice continued, "will both admit that in the death of Bismarck the world has lost one of its strong men, whose earnestness approached savagery, but who did what he set out to do, and built for Germany a name stronger than its ruler." Bismarck still lives, and the notice referred to must be regarded as an ante-mortem obituary, a copy of which should be mailed to the Prince.

A serious collision of authority has occurred between the Mayor of Mount Vernon, New York, and Judge Schaz of the same town. The Mayor and aldermen, it seems, provided a court room for the learned Judge in a large building of the city, and furnished it with every requisite from a luxurious arm chair to a fancy cuspidor. There was a rum shop in the building, and the man of law decided that rum and law could not be dispensed under the same roof, and the fact coming to the notice of the Mayor, he indignantly ordered the removal of all the furniture, it being city property. The judicial Schaz opposed the idea and showed fight, finally ordering the arrest of the Mayor for contempt of court. Great scandal and no little amusement have been caused by the struggle, physical as well as moral, which took place between the two dignitaries, who are graphically described as playing "tag of war" with an office chair. The Mayor finally got the better of the Judge, and His Honor apologising to His Worship, business was resumed and prisoners figure to-day where the Judge figured yesterday.

MONSIGNOR DOUTENVILLE, Coadjutor to His Lordship Mgr. Darden of New Westminster, B. C., is a guest at St. Peter's, the Home House of the Oblat Fathers in Canada. His Lordship is a graduate of Ottawa University, where he filled a professor's chair until 1889, when he was transferred by the head authorities in Paris to British Columbia. In August last he was consecrated Bishop, and is now the youngest Bishop in Canada. Mgr. Doutenville is a fluent English speaker, and before going to the Pacific Coast was often heard with appreciation in the Ottawa Churches. Bishop Doutenville has a great opinion of the resources of British Columbia and its climate. He says that there are 12,000 Catholics, of whom half are whites. British Columbia, he believes, is bound to prosper, and having an extended coast line is not the least of its advantages. His Lordship may preach to-morrow at Grand Mass at St. Patrick's Church; should his engagements permit. During his stay in Montreal His Lordship was visited by a number of the graduates of Ottawa College, resident in this city, amongst the number Mr. Justice Curran, and his eldest son, Mr. John P. Curran.

SPIDER-BITES AS CLAIMS UNDER ACCIDENT POLICIES.

Miss Ayer, of Chicago, while travelling from Atlanta to Norfolk, was bitten by a spider and disabled for some time as a result. She filed a claim for damages, which, though at first resisted, was settled on the 30th December for the full face of the claim.