

The True Witness and Catholic Chronicle

Printed and Published by the True Witness P. & P. Co., Limited,
253 St. James Street Montreal, Canada.

P. O. BOX 1138.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

CITY OF MONTREAL, Delivered,	\$1.50
OTHER PARTS OF CANADA,	1.00
UNITED STATES,	1.00
NEWFOUNDLAND,	1.00
GREAT BRITAIN, IRELAND and FRANCE,	1.50
BELGIUM, ITALY, GERMANY and AUSTRALIA,	2.00

All communications should be addressed to the Managing Director,
"True Witness" P. & P. Co., Limited, P. O. Box 1138.

TERMS, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

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.....August 26, 1899.

OPENING OF SCHOOLS.

Before another issue of our paper appears the schools of this city will have opened their doors for the reception of pupils and another scholastic year will have commenced. It is our duty to remind parents that it is in the interests of their children that they should be present from the very first day. When the end of the year comes they are all anxious that their boys and girls should receive merited prizes, but they should not expect that their children come out ahead in the race, if they deprive them of the benefits of a fair and early start. Besides it is manifestly unfair to the teachers to oblige them to spend several extra days, and even weeks, in reorganizing the classes—yet this is what they must do if the pupils are not on hand at the beginning of the term.

Last week we made special references to the Catholic High School, the Loyola College and the Ottawa University. It being the initial term of the Catholic High School, we have insisted more especially upon the duty of so encouraging the institution, that its very first day may be one of success and thus a forerunner of the prosperity that awaits it in the future. We desire, however, to correct a false impression to the effect that the nuns will have charge of the lower, or primary classes. Such is not the case; but the nuns will have the care of instructing all boys up to the time of their First Communion.

While the higher and more advanced institutions will commence work next week, it must not be forgotten that the schools in general will open on, or about the sixth September. We must not forget to call attention to the various schools under the efficient direction of the Christian Brothers. This noble and self-sacrificing order of teachers deserves well from the citizens of Montreal, and especially from the Irish Catholic population. If we look over the long list of our eminent fellow-citizens, who, in commerce, or in the professions, have carved their way to success, we are confronted with the fact that the vast majority of them have received their fundamental education from the Christian Brothers—he it is in St. Ann's, St. Patrick's, or in other schools throughout the city. And what the Brothers were then, they are still to-day—with the addition of men whose training has been in accord with all the most modern improvements in the art of teaching. When we consider that these devoted men have given up all worldly ties to sacrifice their entire existence to the cause of education, that they devote every hour of their lives in perfecting themselves for and in carrying on their work, that they receive merely the bare necessities of life, that they enjoy a stipend upon which any ordinary man would starve, and that they go about, in their humility, doing good to the world, we must bow the head in veneration. Let all those who enjoy the privilege of having their children taught by the Brothers perform the most highly appreciated act in their eyes, that of promptly corresponding with their request for the early presence of the pupils in their classes. And what we say of the Brothers we can repeat with equal emphasis

of the good and holy nuns whose mission it is to instruct and train the rising generation of young girls. The great world—irrespective of race and equally irrespective of creed—has times out of mind paid just tribute to the grand merits of our Catholic sisterhoods, and as far as Montreal is concerned, we feel that the ladies of the Congregation de Notre Dame, are deserving of a special share of that recognition. It is a privilege beyond price to have the young girls of to-day educated and instructed by our Catholic nuns. All that is good, lofty, pure, noble, reliable in the formation of a character and the development of the mind, may be found inside the walls of their convent-schools and academies.

Let us give the teaching sisterhoods a fair opportunity of bestowing upon the women of the future the full measure of their attention and care; and by no means can we more effectively do this than by sending the girls to their classes—even upon the very first day of the opening term.

Nor should we neglect to speak of our private schools and academies. In each of our parishes we have one or more of these elementary institutions, principally under the care of lady teachers, and from which come forth some of the best students that subsequently enter the higher-grade establishments, or else, at an early age, go forth to do battle with the world. For the various teachers of these schools we would ask the same favor on the part of the parents. Do not forget to encourage your teacher by showing your appreciation of her labor and sacrifices. Make this year a memorable one in the annals of our schools, by having every desk occupied from the first day, and on you will fall the blessing and to your children will come the reward.

FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SOCIETIES.

Any reader who will take the trouble to look over the files of the "True Witness," for some time back cannot fail to discover that we have been harping upon the string of a union of our societies. Possibly no steps have been taken in this direction because it has been considered that such a combination, or federation is not within the limits of the practicable. As different societies have different objects, and as all of them could not embrace the aims and purposes of each, it may be thought impossible to bring about such a union. Still the requirements of our people, the needs that are daily becoming more and more apparent, demand some increase of strength, vigor and influence beyond what we to-day enjoy. At a recent convention of the Knights of St. John, held in the United States, a proposal of general federation was made, and so practicable seems the plan submitted, that we think it could well be taken as the basis of an organized union of all our societies in this city. The Midland Review thus describes and comments on the plan:

"It does not ask all other societies to sink their identity and range themselves beneath its banner. Instead, it proposes a federation of all, such as we now see existing between:

the various States of the Union. Each society will retain its autonomy as now possessed—name, purposes, rebalia, etc.—but will, in addition, be affiliated with a general society made up wholly of a union of all Catholic societies—a Catholic Union of America, similar to the Catholic Union of Great Britain. Thus, owing to this union, the membership card of one society would entitle the holder, when sick or in distress in a place where his society did not exist, to aid from the society existing there, the same to be reimbursed by the federation. In case of proposed anti-Catholic legislation, the protest of such Catholic union, composed of 2,000,000 members, would certainly be heeded. Numerous other ways in which such federation would be helpful will occur to any one after a moment's reflection. It is unnecessary here to cite the ancient adage, "In Union is Strength." Catholics in America certainly need greater unity. This proposed federation of all Catholic Societies will give union without injury to the rights of any. In a word, such affiliation at one stroke would give us a Catholic society far more potent for good than the Young Men's Christian Association, so often put forward as a model for Catholic young men.

It is because we believe this proposed federation perfectly feasible and certainly necessary that we approve the suggestion and urge earnest consideration upon the members of all Catholic societies. Of all lay movements of recent years we regard this the most praiseworthy. The hour shows the necessity of unity. We have stood apart long enough. We have misunderstood each other too long. If all the Catholic Societies of England can unite in a federation surely the Catholics of America can do likewise. There will be loss to none; there will be strengthening of all. Let us unite."

We would humbly request the leaders in our various Irish-Catholic societies, to carefully read the foregoing and to seriously turn it over in their minds. Some one of them might be inspired to bring the question up at one of his society's meetings, and thus to set the ball rolling. It is absolutely certain, that with all our organizations and associations, we exercise but slight influence to-day in affairs of the deepest concern, and it is equally certain that if there were a bond of union between each and all of our societies, we would possess a weight and a power that would soon be recognized and felt.

PRIESTCRAFT.

The Detroit News-Tribune contains a department known as the "Question Box," and this box contains some very peculiar questions, and, at times, equally peculiar answers. Recently a "Querist" asked the definition of "Priestcraft," and if any such thing exists in the present day. There is a simplicity about the question that denotes either of two dispositions in the querist: if asked through ignorance, it does not deserve an answer, if asked to bring forth an anti-Catholic reply, it is both malicious and cunning. In any case the editor of that department makes this reply:

"The term 'priestcraft' is generally used in a bad sense. It was used in that sense by our correspondent, 'Truth,' and, in answer to his question we used it in the same way. To define the term, according to our idea of it, we should say, priestcraft is that undue exercise of influence and authority which some clergymen of all religions are wont to exercise over lay people for the purpose of wheedling from them superstitious reverence and unreasonable submission to their behests. Yes, we think there is much priestcraft in the present day; it is not confined to any one church, however, nor to any particular denominations, although it thrives better and grows to greater proportions in some than in others."

There is a refreshing uncertainty about this answer; it is certainly not a definition. We thoroughly understand that the editor does not wish to offend any religious body, and he consequently takes refuge behind the statement that "priestcraft" is not confined to any one church. He is right to say that it is generally used in a bad sense; he means, of course, in a sense derogatory to the dignity of the priesthood. It is clear, however, that when the word is used it is almost always applied to the Catholic Church. In fact the Roman Catholic Church is the only one that possesses priests. Certain Anglican clergymen style themselves priests, but they have absolutely no claim to the title. A priest supposes an altar and a sacrifice; no minister of any denomination offers up a sacrifice. The Catholic priest alone officiates at an altar upon which a Victim is laid and a sacrifice is offered. Moreover, no Protestant clergyman,

who makes use of the word "priestcraft," ever dreams of applying it to any other body of Christian ministers than the Catholic priesthood.

It is a pity, for humanity's sake that there exists not more priestcraft in the world to-day. Were it more universal, there would be less divisions, less errors, less unchristian principles. There is "priestcraft" in the Catholic Church—but it is something very different from that which the editor of the Question Box attempts to define. It is the sacerdotalism which constitutes a note of the true Church, which perpetuates the Divine Presence in the bosom of the Church, which fulfills the precepts laid down by the Founder of the Church, which gives a meaning to the altar and a significance to the sacrifice, which binds and unbinds the offences of humanity which, in a word makes the Church that which she alone is the "Pillar and Ground of Truth." Of that priestcraft humanity can never have too much.

ABOUT CANDIDATES.

We have no desire to force any situation, but we will take care that the "True Witness" will not be to blame if, when the time comes, the Irish Catholic element is lacking in municipal candidates. At least it will not be said that we did not forewarn, that we failed to sound the key-note, that we were silent, even while being the mouth-piece of those in whom we have a special interest. Already have we referred editorially more than once to the coming changes in the construction of the City Council and in the formation of the city wards. Our correspondent "Observer" has made it pretty clear that there is something radically wrong, as far as the Irish-Catholic element is concerned. Despite all these warnings, suggestions, appeals, we have not yet learned of any serious move being made to secure candidates, from our ranks, for the new division in St. Antoine Ward.

As far as the "True Witness" is concerned all it can do is to indicate the necessity of action, to explain the situation, and to point out the course to be followed. We cannot and would not if we could, select candidates. We are unable to bring out men to carry the standard of Irish-Catholic interests. It is for our national, benevolent and other societies to take the active step; it is for influential and prominent citizens to organize, to act, and to set the whole machinery in motion. So far no individual, no society, no organization has made a move, yet time flies, the month of March is not so far away, and the electorate is always pleased to know before hand with whom it has to deal. We have no intention of repeating all that we stated in recent issues, nor of going over our "Observer's" arguments in favor of immediate and harmonized action; we will be content this week with calling attention once more to the facts that St. Antoine Ward will return six aldermen; that one of those wards comprises almost all of St. Patrick's Parish, that we have a right to two representatives from that division, and that, so far no step has been taken to select candidates. Here is an opportunity for the Irish-Catholic element to regain lost ground, and if it allows the chance to slip unheeded, we can but look with very pessimistic eyes upon the future.

A BEGGAR'S SYNDICATE.

According to the New York press the police of that city have succeeded in breaking up a syndicate of beggars. These well-supplied mendicants had rented a house in Brooklyn, at a cost of \$5,000 per year—which was used as a store house for their implements. Begging had become a "trade," more than a "profession" with them, and they found it necessary to have a good stock of "tools" on hand. When the place was broken up the police found 3,000 crutches, 1,500 hooks, 4,000 wooden arms and legs, 6,000 signboards descriptive of various infirmities. These objects were leased to the different beggars. Sometimes a man would find that his wooden leg game was becoming useless in the region that he frequented; he would simply exchange it for a pair of crutches and also change his beat. Thus the establishment was kept afloat by the large percentages paid for the different implements or accessories.

When such a huge public fraud could be perpetrated on the strength of human sympathies and Christian charity, it presents a new problem for solution. How are people to distinguish between the deserving beggar and the impostor? Under such circumstances it becomes almost an impossibility, to do so. The result is that the generous public is placed in the unpleasant dilemma of refusing aid to all beggars—even those

deserving the assistance, or else of being constantly imposed upon by evil-minded and pernicious characters.

The only remedy that we can see is to redouble all efforts to secure sufficient and efficient homes for the destitute, and to give to these any alms of the kind that each one is inclined to bestow, while refusing pos-

itively to give to the ordinary street mendicant. If the public could be brought to act, with a degree of unanimity, in this manner, soon the begging-business would prove too unprofitable for the members of such syndicates, and possibly they might eventually be forced to seek some more honest and honorable mode of living.

NOTES FROM AMERICAN CENTRES,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.

en upon this subject to the children of our faith. We recognize that Catholic school education of the children of our faith, is necessary to the morality and virtue, and will preserve them not only as good children of the Church, but as faithful and sober citizens of the State."

All the national officers were re-elected unanimously. They are: President, Bishop Tierney, of Hartford, Conn.

Vice Presidents, J. Washington Kogue, Philadelphia; Walter J. Gibbons, Chicago; Mrs. Lenora M. Lake, St. Louis.

Secretary, The Rev. A. P. Doyle, New York.

Treasurer, the Rev. D. S. McGillicuddy, Worcester, Mass.

As a result of the convention's action each of the six hundred and eight subordinate unions throughout the country will join in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the first visit of Father Matthew, of Ireland, to this country on about Oct. 10 which is the birthday of Father Matthew.

The pledge card of J. L. Slattery, of Peoria, former president of the Illinois union, was adopted. It reads as follows:

"I promise, with the divine assistance, and in honor of the sacred thirst and the agony of our Saviour, to abstain from all intoxicating drinks, and prevent, as much as possible, by example and advice the sin of intemperance in others, and to discountenance the drinking customs of society."

The pledge is in force for one year, always dating from Fr. Matthew's birthday.

Philadelphia was chosen as the place for the next annual convention which will be held in the second week of August, 1900.

AN AWFUL TRAGEDY.—Denver was stirred last Sunday as it has seldom been before. Two of the bravest and best policemen on the force met instant death at the hands of a whisky-crazed assassin, says the Colorado Catholic. The event has had the effect of awakening the people to the dangers of what has come to be known as a "wide open" town.

It is morally certain that had the law been enforced the lives of the two brave officers would not have been placed in jeopardy.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS.—According to an American exchange, the recent mandate of the head of the Christian Brothers, commanding the members of the order to give up teaching the classics in their schools and to return to the original work of teaching in the primary parochial schools, has caused a good deal of excitement in educational circles in New York. A meeting of the graduates of the schools and colleges in charge of the Christian Brothers is to be held in this city soon to protest against the change. A committee will be appointed to get up a monster petition, which will be sent to the Holy Father with an explanation of the peculiar conditions which prevail in the United States.

LONGER TERM OF OFFICE.

The short term of the members of the House of Representatives at Washington—two years—is about to form the subject of discussion in Congress. United States Senator Harris is going to introduce three amendments to the federal constitution at the next session, and ask that they be submitted to a vote of the people. The first will provide that the President shall be elected for a term of six years instead of four as at present, and that he shall be disqualified for re-election. The second is designed to make the term of Congressmen four years. The third will provide for the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people. Senator Harris believes there are too many elections now, and he wants to reduce the number. He says that a Congressman no more than gets acquainted with the streets that lead to the capitol until he has to come home and fix up his fences for re-election.

BUSINESS HINTS.

If some of the men who started in business 20 or 30 years ago in this country with, according to their own statements, only the traditional "penny" in their pockets, and attained to success, had to begin to-day they would hardly achieve the success which they have now. Competition is so close to-day that only improv-

ed methods, constant watchfulness, and untiring energy can win the race for profits, and even with all these qualifications it is very necessary to have some accommodating friend or bank to help one out in an emergency. This fact has been realized in the United States, where an association of business men have inaugurated a campaign of commercial education. Here are some of the mottoes which the association has caused to be hung up in thousands of stores, hotels, and railway stations, so that "he who runs may read."

The most expensive thing in the world is running in a rut. In business, running in a rut is trying to sell old things to persons who want new things—offering last year's goods instead of this year's. The cure is going to market.

If you stay at home you dry up; if you go to market you freshen up. To dry up is to lose your customers.

Novelties and fashions originate in the New York market.

If you go to market and your competitors do not your townspeople know it. They know that you have been to the source at New York, and set the fashion and get the trade.

Fresh ideas are worth lots of money in business, and you get lots of new ideas during a week in New York.

By going to market you get tips on styles. Don't save pennies and waste dollars. Don't save on your railroad ticket and lose on the selling quality of your stock.

THE SHAMROCK.—Great is the enthusiasm created by the arrival of Sir Thomas Lipton's new yacht, the "Shamrock," in New York. There is a zest added yearly to the enjoyment of yacht racing; it is gradually becoming more and more popular, and the contests for America's Cup, are yearly becoming subjects and events of deep interest. It is pleasant to note how satisfied Sir Thomas is with his "Shamrock" and how pleased the American sportsmen are to have such a dangerous adversary. Sir Thomas Lipton was delighted to learn of the safe arrival of his precious vessel in New York; and the race will be an epoch-making one in the annals of yacht racing. The New York Herald's editorial welcome is characteristic of American independence and frankness. Amongst other things the Herald says:

"After a pleasant voyage from Greenock, with favorable winds—what there were of them—to speed her on her way, with only the ocean's swell and a hearty welcome to meet, the Shamrock dropped anchor in the bay yesterday.

"No race afield or afloat is more popular than the oft recurring contest for the America's Cup, and the plucky, determined challengers who cross the ocean again and again endeavoring to regain the long lost trophy deserve, as they receive, the welcome that gentlemen sportsmen know so well how to heartily give and as gracefully accept.

Welcome to the Shamrock, then; welcome of the heartiest kind to the boat and crew, who are already in our waters, and to her sportsmanlike owner, who will soon be here!" Then the Herald adds:

"With the coming of the Shamrock not only is great interest revived in yachting races of this kind, but the desire to see the challenger and our cup defender meet is more intense than ever. The reason of this is that the Shamrock is undoubtedly the fastest boat that has ever crossed the ocean to try for the cup, and that will certainly, so far as judgment can forecast her doings on race day, lower all previous records made by foreign or American yachts. No Vigilant or Defender will now keep the trophy with us. Unless all prophecies are wrong, something swifter than those admirable creations is needed to again give us the victory."

The article which is calculated to awaken deep interest in the coming race, closes thus:

"From now until she sails home again the Shamrock will receive every consideration due to so welcome a guest. Every one is delighted that she crossed the ocean with such luck attending her, and good wishes go with her until the moment she passes over the line in company with the Columbia. Then we shall naturally hope to see her defeated, but if defeat comes to her it will doubtless be of that kind that a genuine sportsman can afford to accept—with all past records broken in the striving for victory that was not attained."

The article which is calculated to awaken deep interest in the coming race, closes thus: