

The True Witness and Catholic Chronicle

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TERMS, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

EPICOPAL 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.

PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

SATURDAY.....I ECEMBER 30, 1899

NEW YEAR'S GREETING.

"Happy New Year," to one and all! In thus giving expression to our heartfelt greeting, we do so in sincerity and with the desire that the wish conveyed in words—too often mere formal and fashionable language—may be fully accomplished.

Before another issue of our paper shall reach our readers, this old, dying year shall have gone down to swell the ranks of the many thousands of years already forever gone.

But our "Happy New Year" greeting goes beyond the mere personality of each friend, we wish to extend it to the whole Irish race.

There are many strange contradictions characteristic of our people; yet they all seem to be open to some explanation or other. But there is one that goes beyond our powers of comprehension; it is a real paradox, and still one that appears to be natural in itself.

THE HOLY YEAR.

As will be seen by our description of the imposing ceremonies of Sunday last, in Rome, when Leo XIII. for a first time since 1825, opened the Sacred Door of St. Peter's, and thereby opened the Holy Year of Jubilee, these last twelve months of the expiring century are specially dedicated by the Church to unusual acts of thanksgiving and of penitence.

does he appeal to the pastors to prevent intemperance and all excesses? he points out the advisability of warning hotel-keepers and others in similar situations to avoid any indulgences towards those who might seek to prolong their amusements on that night.

"Let us all rejoice together," says His Grace, "and give thanks for those beautiful days that the Lord has granted. Let us go to the crib of the Infant Jesus, who calls us. The Christmas festival shall be for all of us that sweet feast that we dream of. The angels will rejoice in such a number of conversions obtained, so many virtues practised, and all the good resolutions formed.

This charming, touching, delicate letter is an appeal that must necessarily be hearkened to, and as a result we are confident that the opening of the Holy Year, will be such that the hearts of our first pastor and of our Holy Father the Pope will have cause to palpitate with a grateful joy, like to which the breasts of devout representatives of God have rarely been filled.

A NATIONAL PARADOX

There are many strange contradictions characteristic of our people; yet they all seem to be open to some explanation or other. But there is one that goes beyond our powers of comprehension; it is a real paradox, and still one that appears to be natural in itself.

No; it is not an evidence of any lack of spirit, or of cowardice on their part, because many of these men are to be found, on all occasions, foremost in the public advocacy of the Irish cause, and participating actively and effectively in every movement for the advancement of Irish-Catholic rights.

There is one thing certain; no matter how we may strive to comprehend the spirit of those really patriotic men, we cannot deny the fact that our opinions, our principles, our national and religious sentiments are respected by others exactly in proportion to the respect in which they are held by ourselves.

Amongst those who state—whether they believe it or not—that we would be better off were we to be less Irish (and less Catholic very likely) are some who hold that our condition as a people in this country, and even in this city, would be improved were we to realize the fact that we are a minority.

are a power in the country. If only we could combine in a common cause. If we were to eternally keep reminding our own people and our neighbors of our being in a minority, and to claim nothing as distinctive of Irish-Catholics, the hour of our doom would soon ring loud in our ears.

THE MAYORALTY.

For over a year has the "True Witness" been constantly struggling to awaken the Irish Catholic element to a sense of the importance of the coming election for Mayor of Montreal. We need not, at this moment, go over all the arguments advanced, week in and week out, in these columns; suffice it to say that we commenced the agitation, we began and followed up with hints, suggestions, explanations, assertions, claims, appeals.

We have now the splendid satisfaction of being able to announce that an Irish-Catholic majority candidate has been selected and at once enters the field open for him. The crisis is a grave one; the situation is unique in the history of our people in Montreal; consequently we will simply state that the gentleman who has been chosen, and who has accepted is one whose private life and public dealings are entirely above the slightest suspicion.

During the past couple of days a great many of our readers have experienced a sense of surprise mingled with sympathetic sorrow, on learning of the death of Mr. Frank Gormley. Still in the prime of life, with energies apparently active, a favorite with a large circle of friends, the deceased was cut off in a most painful and somewhat sudden manner.

CONSECRATION OF MGR. BRUNAUT.

On Wednesday, 27th instant, the imposing ceremony of consecrating Mgr. Brunaut, of Nicolet took place. Barely has the cathedral of that ancient parish witnessed a more gorgeous assembly of the mitred hierarchy and the various classes of the clergy, from all parts of Canada, than upon that occasion.

In the elevation of the distinguished and learned priest to the high level of the episcopacy, we cannot fail to remark an example, out of many, of those specially blessed families that adorn the French-Canadian nationality. It is only a few months ago that the present Bishop of Three Rivers, Mgr. Cloutier, was chosen by the Holy See to succeed to the throne occupied by the venerable and gifted Bishop Lefebvre.

What joy must not have filled the hearts, of the aged mother, the priest-brother, and the three nuns, on beholding the consummation of the beautiful life of the Bishop elect! Such spectacles, apart from the importance imparted to them, from a purely ecclesiastical standpoint, are calculated to awaken admiration and respect in the breasts even of those who belong not to our faith.

THE LATE FRANK GORMLEY.

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THE LIVING PICTURES OF HIS HOLINESS, POPE LEO XIII.

The Biograph comes back to Montreal for a week, beginning New Year's day, at Windsor Hall. Since its first visit here last spring the public have seen other moving picture machines, but they all look back to the splendid perfect views, which the Biograph presented and recognized the difference.

will be shown. There will be several new Canadian views. The only good pictures of the Admiral Dewey celebrations, the views of the Shamrock-Columbia yacht race, etc., will be included in an excellent programme.

THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

Mr. Justin McCarthy, M.P., writing to the New York World says: While attempting to review the nature of the task England has undertaken in South Africa I may say I shall do my best to regard the subject from the point of view of an unprejudiced outsider.

I think the English Government made a profound mistake when it allowed itself to be drawn into such a war. I feel convinced that if the heart, the conscience and the intelligence of the English people in general could have been aroused in good time to the real character and policy of the small group of men who were pressing the war, it would never have taken place.

About the ultimate success of the British arms in South Africa there can be no manner of doubt. Nothing but a combination of the great powers against England could prevent her ultimate success.

How to get out of the difficulties certain to arise when the war is over is a problem which will test the greatest British statesmanship, and which, for myself, I am convinced British statesmanship will not be able to accomplish.

The fighting has been from the first for complete sovereignty on the one side and independence on the other. The Boers had been making preparations because they knew there were men in England who would never be satisfied until England obtained absolute Dominion over South Africa.

The preparations of the Boers gave a plausible excuse for the policy of the war party in this country, and thus the two parties to the quarrel day by day, were stimulating each other.

The English Government would have done a wise and noble act if it had offered to refer the whole matter to arbitration and had tendered such an offer as the first fruits of the Peace Convention at the Hague; but that was not in the humor of the men who were pushing things forward on this side, and the result is a prospect of almost illimitable strife.

Of course I do not mean that the strife between England and the South African Republics will be illimitable. The English War Office will pull itself together somehow before very long and make an end of the resistance offered by the Transvaal Republic and the Orange Free State; but what comes then? Whatever may be the formal conditions of peace, we may take it for granted there will be an end of even nominal independence of the South African Republics.

The man who believes the Imperialist Party in England, so it may or Liberal will leave to these Republics any substance of internal independence, is too credulous a person for the atmosphere of modern politics. Therefore this war will, according to my conviction, bequeath to England a new enemy in the Dutch-descended population of South Africa. What a population sprung from such ancestry may do history will tell to future generations.

An English correspondent writes: Our wounded officers and men number 3,220, or more than the total losses sustained at Alma, namely 2,002, or at Inkerman, viz., 2,567. Taken together with our killed, the figures exceed by 1,183 those of the total losses at Quatre Bras in 1815. This, it will be observed, is in killed and wounded only, and there must be added our "missing," who number 2,619 men. It is to be hoped that the bulk of those have found their way to Pretoria or Bloemfontein as prisoners of war, but their whereabouts is not definitely known, and, so far, nothing has been issued officially to show that we have encountered the enemy to the extent of the figures given.

LACHLINE CONVENT.

For the occasion of the "Jubilee Celebrations" of the Sisters of St. Ann, to be held August next, the Mother General requests each of the former pupils of the Mother House to send her address as soon as possible. Lachline, November 28th, 1899.