The True Witness and Catholic Chronicles

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EPICOPAL APPROBATION.

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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 heartly bless those who encourage this excellent work.

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-teo often mere formal and fashionable language- may be fully accomplished. Scores of our readers are personally acquainted with the management of this organ, and their faces are familiar, their hands we may actually grasp, and to them we have taken opportunity of telling our sentiments on such an occasion as the present. But there are hundreds and thousands of our subscribers, our wellavishers, our friends, with whom we weekly hold communion of spirit and thought, to whom we speak through these columns, who drink in our very ideas and feelings from the printed page, and whom in all human probability, we shall never meet personally in this life. To them are we more particular in expressing the **Now Year's precting, and of acceptu**nting for them the sincerity in which it is conceived, and with t is conveyed. Individually and collectively, to each one in particular, to each family circle, to each community, to each association and finally to our whole race do we say, from the bottom of our heart. "may the year 1900 be one of joys and blessings far surpassing those of 1899, and may the sorrows and misfortunes of 1899, find no renewals $i_{\rm H}$

the year 1900."

Before another issue of our paper shall reach our renders, this old, dying year shall gave gone down to swell the ranks of the many thousands of years already forever gone, and a new and extraordinary year shall have commenced its course. The year that approaches, and the sound of whose voice is almost in our cars, will be one of no ordinary importance. Besides being the last of this wonderful century, it will also be a year of universal jubilee. Rome calls it the "Holy Year," because in an especial manner are its months Papal decree "Urbis et Orbis," devoted to exceptional rejoicings and exceptional prayers. We are told by historians that the "jubilee year." is an institution dating back, in the annals of Catholicity, for six centuries, but originally derived from practices and customs of the ancients. Whether during the Christian or the Christian periods the jubilee year was characterized by certain acts of charity, of mercy, of philanthropy, or of liberality. During that year prisoners were given their freedom, debts were extinguished, misfortunes were compensated, slaves liberated, and enemies were reconciled. It is our hope, our wish and our prayers that during the coming year our friends may, one and all, experience—each in his own particular degree-some relici from the worries, the sorrows, the troubles that are incident to human life; and that they may find their sources of happiness multiplied their joys increased, their prospects brightened and assured.

But, our "Happy New Year" greeting goes beyond the more personall- to read attentively the decree whereit to the whole Irish race. We would ed to the Catholic world, by the venrejoice, with a jubilation that no erable Pontiff. In so doing His Grace know and feel that the year of in- of disorders or unseeming conduct abiles would bring to the land of our on such a solemn occasion. Above all

fathers that freedom, that self-government, that special automny which on such occasions it was the custom to accord to those in long servitude. May this jubilee year behold the last lino of slavery's chain stricken from the white limbs of Old Erin ! May the proclamation of emancipation go forth declaring to the world that, in honor of the great year, the hond shall be free, the imprisoned shall be liberated, the suffering shall be nelieved, the lowly shall be exalted. Truly then would it be a year of great jubilee, for us all. Not only in the religious sense-in which the Irish people must ever participatebut equally in a national sense do we desire the fulfilment of the ancient customs of justice that such a glorious consummation may be accomplished, it is not alone necessary to express fervent wishes and foud hopes; there must be an active participation in the grand work of regeneration. Our people must learn by heart the great lesson of co-operation. A new spirit must be infused into our masses. It is therefore our fondest and strongest desire that our "Happy New Year," should include the fulfilment, by the Irish Catholics more immediately connected with us, of that oft-repeated wish of Thomas Davis, namely, "a united sentiment and a self-reliant spirit for the Irish people."

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. In accord with the express desire of the Sovereign Pontiff, His Grace the Archbishop of Montreal, has issued a circular letter on the subject of the wherein it has been ordained that on the opening and the closing of the year 1900, Midnight Mass will be celebrated. This is a decided departure from the olden practices of the Church. As His Grace, expresses it : "The Sacred Congregation of Rites has just published a decree, "Urbis et Orbis,' in virtue of which the Holy Father accords permission, during the the night of the 31st December 1899, and that of the 81st Pecember, 1900, (with the present approbation of the ordinary), in all church wherein the Blessed Sacrament is solumnly exposed, to celebrate at midnight the Mass of the Circumcision, and thereat to give Holy Communion to the faithful." In communicating this exceptional decree to the clergy and faithful of his archdiocese, His Grace ordains that in all churches in which this Mase will be celebrated the Blessed Sacrament should be publicly exposed immeditaely afterwards. The Mass may be either sung or read, according to circumstances. He begs of all ty of each friend, we wish to extend by this extraordinary favor is grantlanguage could express, were we to warns the people against any species

does ho appeal to the pastors to bre vent intemporance and all excesses he points out the advisability goi warning hotel-keepors and others in similar situations to avoid any indulgences towards those who might seek to prolong their amusements on that night. In language that - partakes of the sublime does His Grace express his gratitude for all the favors of the recent Advent missions in the city of Montreal. Never before was such general edification given by the Catholic population-even the Protestants were touched by the spectacle exhibited on all sides during the mission. .

"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. Into how many families, with religion, have not peace and happiness come!"

This charming, touching, delicate letter is an appeal that must recessarily be harkened 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 palpitute 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. Not a few of our fellow-citizens-we mean co-religionists and fellow-countrymeu- give constant expression to the queer idea that there should be no mention of Irish Catholic, Irish-Catholic interests. Irish-Catholic institutions, or anything distinctively Irish-Catholic. These geatlemen claim that, as a people, we suffer by having the name of our race and that of our creed made use of on all occasions when our interests are in question. At first sight one would feel impelled to set this down to a species of moral cowardice on the part of the persons using such expressions of opinion; but, when we reflect upon the actual facts we find ourselves confronted with a most unique netional problem.

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. Can any one explain this strange paradox? There it is before us; a problem that we humbly confess our inability to solve. However, such is the case and we must accept it as it presents itself for our study.

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. If we desire that our views should be honored, wo commence by honoring those of others- and the more emphatically we prove that we have the courage of our convictions the more do those who differ from us, look up to us and honor us. We always advocated the very contrary of the opinion expressed by those gentlemen to whom we refor. We believe in claiming and proclaiming our national and our religious rights and status; not in an offensive, nor yet an aggressive manner, but in such a form that we challenge recognition without creating projudices, and command respect

without giving rise to enmittees. 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. From a patriotic point of view this is another heretical opinion. It is exactly the opposite that we would suggest. The fact that we are a minority needs no special recognition; we all know that such is the case, and we act accordingly. The only recognition of our lack in comparative numbers that we can see would be to keep constantly proclaiming the fact-which surely would not be to our advantago. What we really do need to ap-

preciate is that, other fact that we

are a power in the country, if only we could combine in a common cause If we were to oternally keep reminding our own people and our neighbors of our being in a minority and to claim nothing as distinctively Irish-Catholics, the hour of our doom would goon ring loud in our ears. To whom are we to look for all our needs either as Trishmen or as Catholics? Who is going to educate our children? Who will build our institutions? These are questions. to which no reply, other than the following, can be given: we must absolutely rely on our own community. It is as Irish Catholics that we erect our churches, construct 'our schools, and carry on the two-fold work of religion and education. If we were to discard our distinctive name, as a people, would our French on our English-Protestant neighbors give us that which we can build up if only self-reliant? We have no sympathy with such sentiments, under present conditions, and the sooner they are descarded the better for the Church and the Irish race in Canada.

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 in maent, 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 aid followed up with hints, suggestions. explanations, assertions, claims, appeals. We had a positive conviction that the moment a candidate— who would be properly qualified and entirely eligible-would be chosen, the

battle would be almost won.

We have now the splendid satisfac-

tion of being able to announce that

an Irish-Oatholic mayoraity 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. Mr. W. E. Doran, Montreal's now famous architect, has shown himself willing to sacrifice his own leisure and talents in the mterest of the Irish-Catholic population. No fitter candidate could be found. Possessed of all the necessary qualifications, Mr. Doran would come into office just at a period when his practical and professional experience would be invaluable to the city. his piety, his learning, and his con-While the present Mayor is striving to reconcile his candidature for a second torm, with his own declaration two years ago; while he is seeking to make the public believe that his presence is absolutely indispensable; while he is busy with those harbor improvements and with like projects we find Mr. Doran preparing himself in every imaginable manner to enter ley, Still in the prime of life, with the struggle. In the first place, it is energies apparently active, a favorthe term of an Irish-Catholic, accordin to custom, to occupy the Mayor's seat for a two-year term; in the next place if there be a man in known figure on the street of Montthis city whose elevation to the chief | real; he was an Irish-Catholic of patmagistracy would be timely, that man is W. E. Doran-because the present improvements and their accompanying changes on the face of our harbor maps, domand exactly that technical knowledge and professional acumen which Mr. Doran possesses. Many of our city Churches, several of our public edifices and not a few sucred buildings in various parts of Canada testify to Mr. Doran's adaptability to perform in an effective manner all the duties of Mayon, in general, and those affecting our port of Montreal, in particular. A native of this city; educated inside the limits of Montreal; with his every interest, as well as his heart, centred in the welfare of this metropolis, we can safely say that no more suitable man could possibly be offered for nomination. We feel that we have done our duty, that we have carried our point to such a degree that a candidate is chosen and that the grand principle at stake is saved. Should Mayor Prefontaine succeed by any species of chance, it will be a victory over justice, and honest convictions, a violation of a compact that time has consecrated and practice has prescribed. Even under such circumstances the principle of fair-play and of "turn-about" shall have been rescued from an untimely death. In a word, through the action of Mr. Doran, in stepping into the breach at such a moment may be due the preservation of Irish-Cutholics claims in municipal representation. In any case Mr. Doran de-

serves unstinted praise from all con-

cerned in the future of our people,

and it remains for the people to

prove their gratitude and apprecia-

tion of all done for them by him, to

rally unanimously around him and

to carry him right on to victory.

CONSECRATION OF MGR. BRUNAULT

On Wednesday, 27th instant, the imposing ceromony of consecrating Mgr. Brunault, of Nicolet took place. Rarely has the cathedral of that ancient parish witnessed a more gorgeome assembly of the mitred hierarchy and the various classes of the clergy, from all parts of Canada, than upon that occasion. The list of priests alone would occupy a couple of columns, while of the episcopate were present Archbishop Duhamel, of Ottawa; Archbishop Bruchesi, of Montreal; Archbishop Gauthier,

Kingston, Bishop Blais, of Rimouski; Bishop Beaven, of Springfield; Bishop Emard, of Valloyfield; and Bishop Decelles. The consecrating prelate was Mgr. Bogin, Archbishop of Quebec. Amongst the many relatives of the new bishop present witness his consecration were noticed his brother, the Rov. C. E. Brun-ault, of Springfield, and his three sisters, Rev. Sisters St. Piorre d'Alcantra, Marie de la Nativito, und Marie Hermaun. In the el*vation of the distinguish-

ed and learned priest to the high level of the episcopacy, we cannot fail to remark an example, out of many, of those specially blessed fumilies that adorn the French-Caradian 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 occurred by the venerable and gifted Bishop Lufleche. Un that occasion it was universally commented upon that the prelate just created was only one of a large inmily of brothers and sisters whose lives have been consecrated to God in the grandeur of religious life. Just across the St. Lawrence, in the old parish of Nicolet do we now find a illustration of the religious spirit taking possession of almost an entire family. Mgr. Brunault is one of five children whose careers have been traced, in a remarkable manner, by the Hand of God. What joy must not have filled the

hearts, of the aged mother, the priest-brother, and the three nunsisters, on beholding the consummation of the beautiful life of the Bishop elect! Such spectacles, apart from the importance imparted 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. If the French-Canadian families are such in the numbers of their members that they constitute a permanent guarantee the perpetuity of the race, such families, as those of Cloutier and Brunault, are a real and tangible assurance of the preservation of the faith in our province. As it is not possible for us to give a detailed account of the magnificent ceremonies, the several addresses, the general rejoicings that marked this memorable event in the history of Nicolet, we cannot allow the occasion to pass without, at least, repeating, in the words of one of the addresses, our "sincere congratulations to Mgr. Gravel on the judicious choice that he made of Mgr. Brunault, as his co-adjutor, to the Sovereign Pontiff, Loo XIII., on having ratified that choice of Nicolet's first pastor; an dinally to the nowly elected Bishop, on his having been judged worthy, on account of episcopal prudence, of

THE LATE FRANK GORMLEY.

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 Gormite with a large circle of friends, deceased was cut off in the a most painful and somewhat sudden manner. Mr Cormley was a wellriotic and fervent spirit; he had identified himself with many of our national; literary and religious associations - notably the "Knights of Columbus'; in the commercial world he had occupied positions of high trust, and had curved for himself the ontire confidence of all who came in business contact with him, It seems only the other day that he was as active, as bright, and as busy as ever, moving along amongst his fellow-citizens, a fine example of the honorable and persevering young Irish-Canadian. As we go to press his remains are being carried to that silent abode, whence they shall only arise on the final day, when time will be proclaimed no more. But the memory of his many kindly deeds, generous impulses, and pleasant associations, must long linger with the numbers whom he could truly reckon as his friends.—R.I.P.

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 public have seen other moving picture machines, but they all look back to the splendid perfect views, which the Biograph presented and recognize the difference. The Biograph will show the world-famed views of His Holinose, Pope Leo XIII., which created such a success here last spring, and many new views that will delight the hearts of the public. The famous Gordon Highlanders will be seen in camp outside of Ludysmith, shortly before the nattle Elandslaagte, while Colonel Ofter and the officers of the Canadian contingent will be shown, many of them in double and treble full life size; but in addition to these views of the first contingent, the Royal Canadian Artillery, who form a large part of the second contingent, will be shown. The Scots Greys, reviewed by Lord Wolsoley; General Buller, and Stuff, Lord Kitchener, the Collstream Guards, the Black Watch, and many other splendid scones relating to the

war will be shown. There will to be several new Canadian Wviews The only good pictures of the Admiral Dewcy, celebrations, the views of the Shamrock-Columbia yacht race, elc. will be included in an excellent programme. Mr. C. Le Roy Kenny, the well known baritone, of New York and Toronto, will sing the latest patriotic songs, "Take the Muzzle off the Lion," amd "The Widow of Windsor, and will recite Kipling's "Absent-minded Beggar." There will be two performances daily, at 3.30 and 8.15 p.m., and the prices have been made low, 25 cents for adults. and 15 cents for children. Don't miss these fine pictures!

THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

Mr. Justin McCarthy, M.P., writing to the New York World says:

While attempting to roviow 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 unprojudiced 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. Such a combination is not likely to take place.

How to get out of the difficulties certain to arise when the war is over is a problem which will test the greates 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 hever be satisfied until England obtained absolute Dominion over South Africa. Some of these were inspired by the reviving passion for imperialism and by the almost mechanical reaction against the noble, peaceful, conscientious policy of Gladstone; some, again were inspired by the more ignoble passion for ownership of the gold fields.

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

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

strufebetween England and the South African Republics will be illimitable. The English War Office will pull itself together somehow before 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 Dutch race will be down in the dust for the time. The Dutch are a majority of Cape Celony, and it is not likely their allegiance to England's sovereignty will be strengthened by the subjugation of their kinsmen.

The man who believes the Imperialist Party in England, oe it Tory 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, avcording to my conviction, bequeath to England a now enemy in the Dutch-descended population of South-Africa, What a population sprung from such ancestry may do history will tell to future generations. Perhaps Motley's "Rise of the Inich Republic' may give to anxious students of the present day some help to forecast the possibilities of years to come."

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 filled and wounded only, and there must be added our "missing," who number 2,619 men. It is to be hoped that the bulk of these have found there way to Pretoria or Bloomfontein as prisoners of war, but their whereabouts is not definitely known, and, so far, nothing has been issued officially to show that we have encumbored the enemy to the extent of the figures given. Every effort has been made in revising the figures from time to time to amend them, as missing men have turned up or their bodies have been found. Thus the total-6,538 officers and men killed. wounded and missing-represents more than the total loss at Water - + ± 0

LACHINE CONVENT.

For the occasion of the 'Jubileo 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 nessible. --

Lachine, November 28th, 1899.