

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY

The True Witness Printing & Publishing Co.
(LIMITED)

41333 St. James Street, Montreal, Canada.
P. O. Box 1138.

MS. and all other communications intended for publication or notice, should be addressed to the Editor, and all business and other communications to the Managing Director, TRUW WITNESS P. & P. Co., Ltd., P. O. Box 1138.
The Subscription price of THE TRUE WITNESS for one year, in advance, is \$1.00.
Terms payable in advance.

New subscriptions can commence at any time during the year.

Money for renewal and new subscriptions should be sent to the Managing Director, P. O. Box 1138. You may remit by bank cheque, post office money order, express money order or by registered letter. Silver sent through the mail is liable to wear a hole through the envelope and be lost.

We are not responsible for money lost through the mail.

Discontinuance.—Remember that the publishers must be notified by letter when a subscriber wishes his paper stopped. All arrears must be paid. Returning your paper will not enable us to discontinue it, as we cannot find your name on our books unless your post office address is given.

The date opposite your name on the margin of the paper shows you up to what time your subscription is paid.

We recognize the friends of THE TRUE WITNESS by the prompt manner in which they pay their subscriptions.

Always give the name of the post office to which your paper is sent. Your name cannot be found on our books unless this is done.

When you wish your address changed, write us in time, giving your old address as well as your new one.

If you fail to receive your paper regularly, notify us at once by letter or postal.

All communications for publication must be written on one side of the sheet only, otherwise they are liable to rejection.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1896

PROFESSIONAL SECRETS.

A great deal is being said and written just now about the professional secret. Every now and then an epidemic breaks out in certain spots and the body politic is irritated over what seems to be a new question to the multitude, but which is as old as the hills in reality, and has suffered threadbare discussion in even the remotest past. Across our borders, in looking over our exchanges, we find that the A.P.A., in many quarters, are raving over the professional secret. It is denounced in every note of the gamut as the occasion of untold crime. What a pity that some of the leading spirits in that organization should not be presented with a primer containing the statements of eminent jurists in France, for instance, who are far from being friendly to the Church, but who speak of the very idea of forcing a clergyman to divulge the secret of the confessional or even the confidential statement of the person seeking spiritual advice as an unbearable outrage on human liberty, as subversive of public order and an intolerable tyranny. It would be a charity for some person to point out to them that Taylor, the great authority on evidence in England, where they give no privilege to anyone but the legal adviser, strongly hints that in his opinion the day is not far distant when parliament will go a step further and include the clergyman within the pale of the privileged. However, it might be a bootless task; those who live and thrive on appeals to passion and prejudice are not open to conviction, and the majority of their followers prefer being gulled to being instructed. The regard in which the sanctity of the professional secret is held in England may be judged from the finding of the jury, recently, who gave damages to the extent of \$20,000 against a physician who had violated the confidence reposed in him by one of his patients. In our own province, where for years there was no question about the propriety of the professional secret, as regard spiritual and legal advisers, the even tenor of our way has been more than disturbed of late. The able judgment of Hon. Justice Curran, which we publish in another column, states clearly, concisely and authoritatively what our law is, and in a short time our Court of Appeal will decide on another phase of the question in the case of Abbe Gill. Mr. Justice Jetté gave a decision which was accepted as sound, in the case of a Protestant clergyman, which went beyond the more recent decisions. In that case the minister had been consulted by a married lady. The subject came up in court and the Reverend gentleman was not unwilling to state what he had learned in confidence if the court so desired, but his Honor held that not only was the lady's communication privileged and the witness could not be forced to reveal it, but further, that it was his duty not to reveal such professional secret. With that broad liberality which characterizes the law of our province there is no exception made as to ministers of religion—all are on the same footing and all are alike bound and protected by the code. This law is not a concession to priests or ministers, it is based upon the highest regard for the safety of the state. Religious advisers are considered the guardians of public morals, and the greatest statesman that Canada has yet produced, speaking in England at a public banquet, said that the French Canadian clergy were the best moral police in the world. Clergymen receive the confidences of their parishioners at their presbytery, but they also, if they be good and zealous men,

seek out in the homes of their people the erring ones to bring them back to the path of virtue or to extend such advice as may be needed in the difficulties and troubles that arise everywhere around them. Take away the sacredness of secrecy surrounding the intercourse of pastor and penitent or that between the clergyman and the simple seeker for consolation or advice, and an influence for good is destroyed that no human device can replace. The highest political wisdom enacted our laws on this subject, and our jurisprudence has almost uniformly been in accord with the spirit of our legislation. In other lands where an unholy agitation is now going on, before long, no doubt, conformably to the views of the most enlightened men in those countries, the laws on this subject, instead of being made retrogressive, to please ignorant fanatics or designing knaves, will have their scope enlarged and the fullest sanction be given to that wholesome and genial influence which may be exercised by the clergyman when those who seek his advice in their trials and troubles and secret afflictions know that their confidence can never be betrayed. As for the Catholic priest, no matter under what law he may live the secret confided to him in the Sacrament of Penance can never be torn from him, as ages of experience have proved.

HARMLESS PLAGIARISM.

The case of the New York Episcopal clergyman, Rev. Dr. Parker Morgan, who was charged with preaching a sermon which somebody else had preached some years ago, has been disposed of by his prompt recognition of the original authority. This relieves him of the imputation of "unconscious assimilation," the scientific term for the very common practice of thinking things that somebody else has thought. But even if the clergyman in question had been guilty of this latter weakness it should not be imputed to him as an unforgivable fault. It is a thing that happens not only to clergymen, but to orators of all classes, to statesmen and especially to aspiring journalists seeking fame in the metropolitan field. In fact its existence is so common as to excite only gentle derision or the mildest sympathy.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

It is nothing new to hear of corruption in municipal affairs. We have had our share of clique rule in the city of Montreal. Only a few months ago Toronto was the theatre of a scene which caused its citizens to blush for many of the aldermanic representatives, and, if reports be true, the judicial enquiry failed to bring out the full extent of municipal rotteness. On the other side of the lines the investigation into police delinquencies, in New York city, is still fresh in the minds of all. Now, we have a grand jury in Chicago, reporting from facts brought to their knowledge during their official sittings, that the city is in the hands of a corrupt ring, and that nothing short of a clean sweep will do justice to the situation. Last week the elections for some offices and aldermen took place there. An attempt was made to stand up for good municipal government, which was only partially successful. During the day the city was the scene of many bloody conflicts; sticks, stones and the inevitable revolver were made to do duty. Many citizens were hurt and maimed, and the police force had its hands full in suppressing riots in several quarters. All this is not reassuring, and if popular government be on its trial in municipal matters, many good citizens will come to the conclusion that the sooner some radical change is made in the mode of administration of civic affairs the better.

LET US HAVE PEACE.

The joint appeal of Cardinals Gibbons, Leane and Vaughan, to the English-speaking nations, in favor of a permanent tribunal of arbitration, in the interests of peace, is a document that will mark an era in the history of the Church. This is not a new movement, as their eminences point out, but the condition of affairs throughout the world, and the signs of the times, give the appeal special significance. The Church has always been solicitous for peace. As stated by the distinguished prelates, "Such a court existed for centuries, when the nations of Christianity were united in one faith." Then, indeed, it was possible to have such a court, when the Supreme Pontiff was clothed with authority; when his words were listened to with filial respect by governments and peoples. To-day, it is greatly to be feared, the difficulties in the path of such a tribunal are almost insuperable. The spirit abroad is not the spirit of Christianity, but that of selfishness, perverting most things, but more especially governments. Looking back only a few weeks, it will be remembered how the hearts of Christians throbbed at the prospect of joint action by the great powers to bring about a better state of things for the wretched Armenians, daily being massacred by thousands. Alas, vain hope! Selfishness, inter-

national jealousy, intervened, and the great display of pomp and power that was to awe the persecutors into more human treatment to their subjects, vanished like smoke, leaving the condition of the miserable victims worse than before any interference on their behalf was mooted. How easy it would be to indicate the trail of that selfishness in the affairs of all those countries, in the despatches that reach our shores day after day. Despite the darkness of the outlook, which their Eminences readily acknowledge in putting forth their plea for a peace tribunal, when they state, "We are well aware that such a project is beset with practical difficulties," it will be well for every lover of peace to ponder over the document signed by three such eminent and far-seeing ecclesiastics. They do not base their hopes on mere worldly considerations. That, indeed, would be a rotten foundation. They proclaim to all who will heed their voices:

"Others may base their appeal upon motives which touch your worldly interests, your prosperity, your world-wide influence and authority in the affairs of men. The Catholic Church recognizes the legitimate force of such motives in the natural order, and blesses whatever tends to the real progress and elevation of the race. But our main ground of appeal rests upon the well known character and will of the Prince of Peace, the Living Founder, the Divine Head of Christendom. It was He who declared that love for the brotherhood is a second commandment like unto the first. It was He who announced to the people the reward of those who seek after peace and pursue it. 'Blessed,' said He, 'are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.'"

We, therefore, earnestly invite all to unite with us in pressing their convictions and desires upon their respective Governments by means of petitions and such other measures as are constitutional. No doubt, in the proper time, and in the way best calculated to insure success, the hierarchy and clergy will adopt means to give practical and tangible effect to the suggestions of the three great Cardinals. When that time comes the English-speaking Catholics, wherever they may be found, will give a hearty response to the appeal, made in so lofty a spirit and for so noble a purpose.

FATHERS VS. CLASSICS.

The old dispute as to the exclusive use of the pagan authors in colleges and petit seminaries in France is again raging with great vigor. The advocates of the introduction of certain portions of the literary productions of the Christian Fathers, in the early years of classical studies, claim that if there are so many disciples of Voltaire in France, it is in a large measure due to the effect made upon the minds of students in their impressionable years by the questionable character, from a moral point of view, of the writings of the pagan literateurs. They claim that what would be lost in beauty of style would be more than compensated for by sound morals. For years war was waged upon this subject, but if we are to judge by the pamphlets that have recently appeared there still remains much to be said on both sides of the question. Father Verest is a champion of Virgil, Horace and Cicero, and even his opponents admit that in his brochure he has made out a powerful case. They claim, however, that with all his ability he has failed to show that the pupils would not be better off a comparison between Christian morals and pagan ideas, even at the sacrifice of a certain amount of literary elegance.

The return moved for by Sir William Hingston of all maps, reports, correspondence, petitions, etc., respecting the grand pier at Montreal, has been laid on the table of the Senate. The return is a very voluminous one, composed mostly of copies of minutes and correspondence between the department of Public Works and the Harbor Commissioners. The first two documents are dated July 24, 1895, and are from the Department, hoping that expenditure will be decreased, and that the submissions of the Harbor Board's engineer can be considered and acted upon at an early date. Then comes under date July 31 an assurance that the harbor engineer's suggestions will be acted on. On September 11, Dr. Lachapelle, M.P., transmitted Mr. J. A. Beaudry's report on a nuisance complained of by the Allan Steamship Company, on account of the discharge of the sewer in the Allan Basin. Mr. Beaudry said the mouth of the sewer should be closed, as it constituted a public danger to health. Before the construction of the grand pier the current carried away the sewage. This is followed by a communication from the Chief Engineer, dated October 1, endorsing Mr. Beaudry's views, and stating that the Harbor Commissioners are responsible, as the Government has no jurisdiction in the harbor. This is followed by a correspondence regarding the dimensions of the opening at Victoria Bridge.

ONE of the most significant signs of the times in the temperance movement, and of a practical character, comes from Columbus, Ohio. By a vote of thirty-

eight to eight, the House has passed the anti-treating bill introduced by Omar P. Norris, of Wood County. As will be seen by the vote, it met with little or no opposition, and Mr. Norris says he has been assured that it will pass the Senate and then become a law. The bill reads that whoever treats or offers to treat another person to an intoxicating drink, or whoever gives or offers to give to another person an intoxicating drink in any place where intoxicating liquor is sold, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be fined not less than one dollar nor more than three dollars and the cost of prosecution for the first offence, and for the second offence he shall be fined not less than three dollars nor more than five dollars and the costs of prosecution; and for the third offence he shall be fined not less than ten dollars nor more than twenty five dollars and the costs of prosecution. One half of the fine goes to the informer.

THE Senate spent a whole afternoon's session in the discussion of a motion, by Senator Boulton, for a return of correspondence relating to the preservation of the health of the Canadian herds of cattle and other live stock. He spoke at considerable length on his motion, expressing the opinion that the scheduling of Canadian cattle was not an unmixed evil, inasmuch as it would make it necessary for Canadian cattle breeders to export fat cattle instead of sending store cattle, as formerly, to be fattened in England. Senator Cochrane said that the contention of the English Government that the reason why Canadian cattle were scheduled was because of the existence of pleuro-pneumonia, was ridiculous, as that disease could not exist in any country without its existence becoming notorious. No fault could be found, he said, with the Home Government for excluding Canadian cattle from their markets as a protection to the British farmer. The real cause of complaint against the Imperial authorities was that they pretended that the reason for imposing the schedule was because of the supposed existence of pleuro-pneumonia thereby branding Canada before the eyes of the world with the reputation of diseased herds when such was not the case. He thought the scheduling was not an unmixed evil, as we could now feed our cattle at home. Senator Boulton, after some further discussion, withdrew his motion.

AN interesting and curious episode related in a work, entitled "La Crise Religieuse en Angleterre," edited by Father Raguey, a Marxist (who has been honored by a letter from Cardinal Vaughan), and just published by Lecoffre, of Paris, shows that the reunion movement has been exercising no slight influence at Oxford. On the evening of May 26 last some forty students, members of the Association for the Reunion of Christendom, met at Christ Church College to discuss the letter of His Holiness Leo XIII. This date was purposely chosen because it was the Feast of St. Augustine of Canterbury, the Apostle sent to convert England by Pope Gregory the Great. The Abbe Klein, the distinguished professor of the Catholic University of Paris, who was present, spoke at considerable length, and suggested that they all join in the Apostle's Creed. The suggestion was adopted. Among its supporters was an Anglican clergyman, who declared: "There is not one here who, if he had lived at the 'Reformation,' would not have opposed it with might and main." Such a reunion is, at least, a hopeful sign of the times.

We refer our readers to a correspondence published elsewhere in this issue, on the Manitoba School question. The writer seems to consider as timely the explanation given to the House of Commons by Dr. Cameron, of Inverness, with regard to the present school system of the Lower Provinces, which we also publish elsewhere in this issue. We endorse the views expressed. We cannot see how the simple good will of any section of our people should be looked upon as a permanent and satisfactory basis for the support of the rights and guarantees of any other class of our community. The question at issue is a constitutional one. The problem to be solved seems to be simply this: Should Catholics have any rights under the protecting mantle of our Constitution? And if perchance any such rights have been accidentally guaranteed in the past, should they be any longer respected? In a word, are Catholics to be eternally faithful and loyal and self-sacrificing subjects simply on tolerance? What says the country?

It is well to be reminded from time to time of the benefits of vaccination, and of the sad results of neglecting it. The cable informs us that the situation in Gloucester, England, where virulent small-pox is raging, is so serious that the Government is likely to take charge. Up to March 28 there were 700 cases, and since then there has been an increase of 50 weekly. The percentage of deaths is 25, and the town is in a state of panic. The Dean of Gloucester has issued an appeal for assistance, all race meetings,

etc., have been cancelled, and all railway and holiday arrangements have been abandoned. The town is generally avoided, and other towns are instituting quarantines against Gloucester. The situation is due to the anti-vaccination views of the local Council, and now the citizens, including those who were violently opposed to vaccination, are rushing in thousands to be vaccinated.

THE Daily News and the Chronicle have reports from Constantinople, said to be on the best authority, that an Imperial irade has decreed the wholesale expulsion of all Christian missionaries from Armenia, mainly French Catholics and American Protestants. It is still possible, says this report, by immediate pressure to prevent the execution of the decree, but no time is to be lost.

The Daily News says in an editorial on this matter: 'There is reason to believe that the Sultan has signed this decree but that it has not yet been issued. It is Lord Salisbury's obvious duty to leave no diplomatic stone unturned to prevent the threatened disaster. No doubt Mr. Riddle the United States Charge d'Affaires will act with energy.'

The Chronicle thinks that the irade is aimed at the agents of the relief fund and is due to the fact that the missionaries have given publicity to the massacres. The Chronicle believes that Lord Salisbury could count upon French as well as American support in demanding the withdrawal of the irade.

A costly ostensorium, surpassed in value and beauty of design by one other only—that of the Vatican at Rome—has been donated to the church of St. Francis Xavier, New York, by Mr. Bourke Cockran, in memory of his deceased wife. Dazzling to behold, it stands three feet high, composed of solid silver with a lunula of gold. The material used in its manufacture was Mr. and Mrs. Cockran's silver plate. One year has been devoted by skilled artisans to the construction of the ostensorium. There is also the thabor on which the lunula rests, and a chalice for the church of St. Ignatius Loyola, made from the same source as the vessel itself. It was designed in part by the priests of St. Francis Xavier and in part by Mr. Cockran. Mrs. Cockran, nee Mack, was in life a devout church member. Mr. Bourke Cockran is one of the most effective orators in the United States.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It has been estimated that in Chicago last year \$40,000,000 were spent for liquors. It has also been pertinently added: What would this do towards settling the wage question? It would give 20,000 families homes worth \$2,000.

MR. GLADSTONE has written a letter to the Duke of Argyll, congratulating him upon the work done by the Armenian Relief Committee. He says that he hopes that nobody will suppose that the deplorable and ignominious failure of Europe to do her duty in Armenia will in any way diminish the force of the present appeal to Christian pity. It ought rather to enhance it.

A CORRESPONDENT of the New York Sun, in a letter attacking Sir William Van Horne, says: "The man who is willing to surrender his American citizenship for money and title should be thoroughly despised." It would make quite a difference if it were a foreigner who had gone to the United States to make his fortune and become naturalized. Strange how easily some people's fathers are ruffled. Sir William will not lose many nights rest over the criticism.

EX-SENATOR WALSH, of Georgia, and editor of the Augusta Chronicle, in speaking on Religious Bigotry, refers to the Catholic Church in the following terms: "It stands as a bulwark against socialism, communism, atheism and anarchism, and is engaged in every work that tends towards the amelioration of suffering humanity, the education of the masses, the spiritual and temporal advancement of the people and the honor and glory of the Republic."

DURING the past few months a number of prominent Protestants have embraced the Roman Catholic faith. Among these announced during the present month is that of the Rev. A. Coleman, son of Bishop Coleman, of Delaware Diocese of the Episcopal Church. Mr. Coleman is only 30 years of age, and received his educational training mainly at Oxford. He was for sometime rector of St. Michael's Mission, Wilmington, a church of pronounced ritualistic tendencies.

AN inquiry into the claim of martyrdom of Mary, Queen of Scots, has been made in the Catholic diocese of Westminster. The matter is now before the authorities in Rome. The Tablet, the leading Catholic organ, says that the question of her canonization is not one dealing with the life of the Queen or the vexed points of her history. The ques-

tion is purely if she died as a martyr to her faith. It adds that not even her enemies can deny her a martyr's crown.

MR. JOHN CHARLTON'S evangelical career culminated last week, when he read passages of scripture in the House of Commons as food for mockery in an obstructionist speech. The proper observance of the Sabbath is a desirable thing, but respect for the Bible decency demands from a man whose piety is kept so much in evidence.

THE Sacred Heart Review says that "General Greeley, who recently contributed to a Philadelphia publication a paper on 'The Personal Side of Washington,' with the view of showing in one portion thereof that the first president was friendly to American Catholics, has himself one thing to learn, to wit, that it is contemptuous to call the Catholic the 'Romish' Church." The habit is freely indulged in in Canada, and the rebuke is timely.

AN exchange paper thus explains a new game called "The Editor's Delight":—

"Take a sheet of ordinary writing paper, fold it carefully, and inclose a bank note sufficiently large to pay up all arrears and one year in advance, giving your name and post office address. Mail it to the manager and keep an eye on the editor, and if a smile adorns his face the trick works like a charm. Now is the time to play the joke."

The solution of this problem does not seem to be very difficult. We recommend a trial of it by those of our subscribers who may be desirous of receiving in return a beautifully illuminated post card receipt, in acknowledgment of their desire to encourage and help on the good work of a Catholic newspaper.

THE REVIVAL OF THE DRAMA.

THE BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED BY YOUNG MEN.

One of the brightest signs of the times is the distinct revival of the drama in the different colleges in the United States and Canada. Adaptations of Shakespeare, Moliere and other literary giants are being brought forward as they never have been before, with the result that young men of the present day have opportunities which were, for some reason or other, out of reach of their less favored predecessors.

The benefits to be derived from participation in dramatic performances are manifold. Correct pronunciation is one of them, and who will assert that it is a trifling one? Who has not been attracted, at one time or another, by the clear enunciation of some young man with whom he has come in contact, whose voice is under complete control, whose manner is self-possessed and whose carriage is easy and graceful? And when and how has he become possessed of these advantages? Nine times in ten he has attended a college or school where professors and teachers have learned to cost the elocutionary pill with the sweet covering of dramatic glamour. These performances also give to a young man a certain amount of self-confidence, which, with the advantages above described, paves the way for public speaking.

In our own city we have colleges and societies whose directors have grafted the histrionic branch upon the tree of knowledge. We might mention Mount St. Louis College, St. Ann's Young Men's Society and the Young Irishmen's L. & B. Association in this connection. These organizations have done much to promote a liking for the healthy drama, and for so doing they deserve the approbation and appreciation of the public, for they are performing a work that will hereafter rebound to the public benefit.

PRESENTATION

TO MR. P. REYNOLDS—TWENTY-FIVE YEARS' SERVICE REWARDED.

On Wednesday last Mr. P. Reynolds, well known in banking circles, completed his twenty-fifth year of service in the City and District Savings Bank. The officers of the Bank, who hold Mr. Reynolds in high esteem, thought it a fitting occasion to give some evidence of their appreciation of his many services rendered to them, and presented him with a beautiful tea-service. The presentation was made by Mr. Daly, manager of the Point St. Charles branch, in a happy little address, replete with reminiscences of the past. Mr. Reynolds seemed very much affected when rising to reply. He thanked the officers of the Bank for their kindness, not only on this occasion, but for the courteous and friendly manner in which they had always treated him. An adjournment was made afterwards to the apartments of Mr. Reynolds, where Mrs. Reynolds offered the officers refreshments.

THE DEATH OF LADY MOUNT STEPHEN.

LONDON, April 10.—Lady Mt. Stephen died at a quarter to three this morning, succumbing to a painful operation she recently underwent. The sad event caused widespread regret in society, where Lord and Lady Mount St. Stephen were very much esteemed. The late Lady Mount St. Stephen, Annie Charlotte Kane, was born in England. In 1853 she was married in England to George Stephen, now Lord Mount Stephen. Until about five years ago she lived almost continuously in Montreal from the time of her marriage. She had no children of her own, but Lady Northcote, one of the most distinguished ornaments of London society, was her adopted daughter. Deceased was of a very kindly disposition, contributed generously to public charities, and endeared herself to many people by kindly acts of unostentatious generosity.