



VOL. XLIV., NO. 29

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1895.

PRICE 5 CENTS.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

IT APPEARS that in Holland the rights of conscience are recognized and respected. The railroad managers have agreed to give their Catholic employees full liberty to abstain from work on church holydays. There is something very liberal in this decision of the wealthy labor employers of that country; in lands we know of the example might be followed with very beneficial results.

OSCAR WILDE has given the world "An Ideal Husband." We hope it will be a success, and above all that the author has not clothed his model in the eccentric garments in the long-haired lecturer who was the laughing stock of the American public a few years ago. Oscar is certainly a clever fellow; a pity that he cannot walk the earth like ordinary mortals.

NOT LONG AGO we gave a full list of the Popes from the first to the last, with the dates commencing and closing each reign. A correspondent wants to know how many Popes have occupied the Pontifical throne. Leo XIII. is the two hundred and fifty-eighth direct successor of St. Peter. If our friend will look through THE TRUE WITNESS issues for November last he will find the details of that interesting list.

THREE new Apostolic Vicariates have been created, by the Congregation of the Propaganda, in Nyanza. Two are under the charge of the White Fathers and one under the English missionary Fathers. It is to be hoped that "Regions Beyond" will not feel hurt and that Mr. H. Grattan Guinness will not lose any sleep over the news. We would be sorry to disturb that zealous writer's peace of mind; he is so very unbearable when the anti-Catholic mania seizes him.

ACCORDING to the Voce della Verita, an Irish pilgrimage of five hundred is expected in Rome. Truly is Ireland the land of Faith. It is wonderful to contemplate her history; the stronger the storms of persecution that beat about her, the deeper into her soil did the great tree of Faith drive its roots. Apart from Rome being the centre of Christian life, it has also a special attraction for the sons and daughters of Ireland—it is the shrine that holds the great heart of O'Connell.

JOHN BURNS seems to think that his own description of Chicago was not exact. He had called it "a pocket edition of hell;" now he wishes to have it read that "hell is a pocket edition of Chicago." With all due respect to Mr. Burns and his powers of observation, we think that he would have done better to have left his solitary epigrammatic remark alone. He visited Chicago, and could possibly form some slight idea of it; but we trust that he has never visited the other place. If a man were to go there on an investi-

gating tour he might be badly disappointed—as far as his return and subsequent reports are concerned.

A CONTEMPORARY has the following significant piece of information:

"The Pope has addressed a confidential message to the cabinets of several European Powers calling attention to the trouble in Italy, and inviting their support in the event of complications."

THE month of February is dedicated by the Catholic Church to the Holy Family. During the month there are several important feasts. On the second, the Purification; on the third, St. Francis de Sales; on the ninth, St. Cyril of Alexandria; on the eleventh, the Servite Founders; on the fourteenth, St. Valentine; on the twenty-third, St. Peter Damian and St. Mathias the Apostle. The twentieth will be kept by Pope Leo as the seventeenth anniversary of his election.

THERE ARE queer contradictions in this world. The Emperor of Germany, a Protestant sovereign, never inaugurates a session of the Reichstag without invoking the blessings of God. The King of Italy, who is supposed to be a Catholic, never mentions the name of God in his speeches in opening the Italian Parliament. The first article of the Italian statute recognizes the Catholic religion. How explain these facts? Simply by examining into the surroundings of the latter monarch. He is the victim of continental masonry, and is the figure-head, but not ruler of his country. The real king is Lemmi; the real statutes are the laws of the secret societies; the real power is that wielded by the sworn enemies of Catholicity—Christianity—God!

"THE VATICAN, THE POPE AND CIVILIZATION" is the title of a work which Cardinal Bourrett and other writers will soon have published in Paris. This book will be a history of the Papacy from St. Peter down to Leo XIII. Without doubt this work will be one of very great importance. Particularly instructive will be the chapters in which the effects of Catholicity on civilization are described. Drop a stone in a pond and watch the effect upon the water; circle after circle, each larger and deeper than the former, widening out until the whole surface becomes agitated. So do we perceive the cycles of civilization working under the influence of Catholicity; and so will that influence continue until the rim of time has been touched by the wave of civilization.

BEFORE long we will have quite a collection of poems, or verses, good, bad and indifferent, sufficient to publish an amusing volume. We have at present over thirty-five poetic compositions sent in by different subscribers and friends. We readily understand that each one is anxious to have his or her production published. Still it would be impossible

for us to find room for them all, were we to devote a whole issue to nothing else. And if we take them each in turn, not a few would have to wait several months before having a turn. And as each writer imagines that such a delay is unfair, or a mark of non-appreciation on our part, we must adopt some method of satisfying all. We, therefore, have determined not to publish any poems except those written for special occasions of general interest, and then they must be of first-class literary merit. Thus we will avoid offending any person and save ourselves the unpleasant duty of declining contributions.

THE REPUBLIC says that "Leo XIII. placed republican France under a new obligation by the promptitude with which he instructed the nuncio at Paris to congratulate President Faure on his election. The value of this congratulation, coming at a time when some Frenchmen appear to doubt of the permanency of republican institutions in the land, can be readily imagined; and the moral effect of the Pope's action was doubtless widely felt." It has been widely circulated that President Faure is the first Protestant to occupy that position. But since the President himself says that he is a Catholic, the assertion goes for nothing. It is probable that Mr. Faure should be the best judge in the matter. If he calls himself a Catholic, it is of little consequence what the press may call him.

THE Legion of Honor is a decoration highly prized by Frenchmen the world over; but according to the Universe it is rapidly becoming the token of corruption and favoritism. It is thus our trans-Atlantic contemporary speaks:—

"The French were never politically blameless, but now they are lapsing into more hopeless blunders than ever. Black-mailing in journalism and corruption in the Parliament are the rule, and Ministers are hard to seek. At a recent meeting in the Chamber of Deputies one hon. member quoted a quatrain thirty years old with great success:

Les temps etalent durs autrefois,
On pendait les voleurs aux croix;
Aujourd'hui les temps sont meilleurs
Et l'on pend les croix aux voleurs!

We might thus translate these lines:

"The times were so hard long ago,
That thieves on crosses were hung;
But to-day we've a different way,
The crosses on thieves now are strung."

POOR Mr. Doniel is coming in for no end of abuse from the Freemasons. He left the order and handed over his insignia to Mgr. Coullie, Archbishop of Lyons. He was a Rosy Cross, and Venerable of the lodge of Les Adeptes d'Isis-Montyon at Orleans. The disciples of the Grand Orient claim that he was a fraud and was never a man to be relied upon. Despite all that the facts remain that he was a member of the Grand Council of the Order in 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, and a deputy of the last convention, held in September, 1894, in the Rue Cadet. If he was a fraud and an unreliable man the Masonic body must be

composed of queer characters, otherwise he would not have been chosen to occupy such responsible offices during so many years. Doniel is a genuine mason, or else every member of their grand council are frauds and unreliable. One thing certain, he is now a genuine convert from their errors.

THE REV. E. V. LEBRETON, a so called ex priest, died recently in St. Louis. He was at one time a Catholic priest, exercising his ministry in Lowell, Mass. He subsequently fell away and became a Methodist. Of course, as is the usual thing, there was a woman in the case, and Lebreton married her. He villified the Church as much as he possibly could. But he never lost entirely his faith, and in his remorse he turned to drink. Not long ago he left Lowell leaving a letter to the effect that he was going to return to the Church. Two weeks ago his so-called wife got a letter announcing his death in St. Louis. The letter contained the remark: "It may be a consolation for you, and at the same time it might repair the scandal he has given you, to know that he died reconciled to his God and full of sorrow for his past misdeeds." There was one grand point in Lebreton's favor; he never insulted the Blessed Virgin. Probably he even privately said an occasional Ave Maria. The one who is faithful to the Mother of Jesus cannot perish, for the Son loves the one who loves His Mother.

ONE of our most flourishing Canadian parishes is that of St. Mary's, or Our Lady of Good Counsel, Montreal. To all the good people of that parish the following information, clipped from the Augustinian monthly, Our Lady of Good Counsel, of which Miss Eleanor C. Donnelly is the accomplished editor, will prove of interest:—

"The first church erected in the United States, under the title of Our Lady of Good Counsel, was built at Lehigh, I. T., in the year 1886. Its pastor was Right Rev. Isidore Robot, O.S.B., first prefect-apostolic of the Indian Territory. In this little church is a large, handsomely-framed lithograph of the Augustinian Madonna sent from Genazzano by the late Rev. Edward M. Mullen, O. S. A., after he had touched it to the miraculous image there preserved."

MANY of our readers who belonged to the Pontifical Zouaves will be interested in this item which we clip from the London Universe:

"The death of the Brigadier Tito de Stefan's, of the Pontifical Gendarmeria, is announced. His father was a captain in the corps, and at eighteen years of age—that is to say, in 1844—he enrolled himself in the service of the Holy See. In 1860 he was a brigadier, and was decorated with the medal Pro Petro Sede. He was as charitable as he was valorous, and distinguished himself by his attention to the cholera patients at Albano in 1867. He was at Mentana, and won the cross Fidei et Virtute. In 1870 he was faithful to the cause of St. Peter. R.I.P."

Perhaps not a few of our fellow country-men will remember Tito de Stefanio; if not they certainly heard of his name and his great merits.