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The True Witness



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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

"If the English-speaking Catholics in 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 the country. I heartily bless those who encourage this excellent work."
—PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A NOTABLE JUBILEE.—All the Catholic Bishops of the world have been officially notified to come to Rome on the occasion of the celebration, next December, of the fiftieth anniversary of the promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. If any of them cannot attend in person, they must send delegates. But all Bishops within one hundred miles of Rome are obliged to attend. The idea of the Sovereign Pontiff, apart from the courtesy of inviting the Princes of the Church, is to have the entire Catholic world represented on that glorious occasion. Between this and the month of December, we hope to have several occasions to write on the inspiring subject of the Immaculate Conception and to treat it from different standpoints. For the present we merely desire to call attention to the fact that, in the person of the Bishops or of their delegated representatives, every Catholic in the world will be present on that grand occasion. There is a unity in the Church which constitutes the envy and despair of all other religious bodies. Under no circumstances could that unity be more appropriately emphasized than when a dogma of such vital importance is acknowledged by the united voices of Christendom.

Fifty years ago, when the immortal Pius IX., amidst assembled Cardinals and members of the entire hierarchy, proclaimed as a matter of Catholic belief the great truth of the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God, the world outside the Church declared that a new doctrine had been discovered and that it would die out soon, just as it had been conjured into existence. No new doctrine had been either discovered or promulgated; a truth that had always been believed by the Church was, for reasons arising out of new circumstances in the world, officially declared, by the infallible Vicar of Christ, to be a matter of belief—nothing else. But fifty long years have rolled away, and, as in regard to all other great truths that she teaches, the Church is now proclaiming to the world, by this celebration, that the Immaculate Conception is unanimously held by the millions of Catholics, to be a fundamental dogma, a basic truth, and that she never changes, in this any more than in any other of her doctrines. And how could she? Coming from God, who is unchangeable, she must partake of the characteristics of her Founder.

It will be a glorious event, that celebration in Rome, on the 8th of December, 1904. Minds will be carried back to that other 8th December—fifty years ago—when the entire social structure of Europe was rocking at every breath of the infidels, the revolutionists, the illuminati, the carbonari, the adepts of the secret societies, and when, amidst the great upheaval in Italy, in France, in Hungary, in the Netherlands, and in Austria, the sublime figure of Pius IX. stood alone for authority, and his potent voice—even as the voice of his Master bidding the waters of Galilee, he still—proclaimed to the world the imperishable glories of Mary Immaculate. Ross might fall under the assassin's dagger on the steps of the Senate; the Pontiff might fly in the night along the road to his Gaetan exile, but all that did not hush the voice of Christ's Vicar, nor prevent the onward march of the Church, nor diminish the force that hailed Mary "Immaculate" in the hour of the Church's need, in the crisis that demanded her special protection. There

is something so surpassingly glorious in this fiftieth anniversary of that signal honor to the Mother of God, that language fails to translate the thoughts and sentiments that it awakens. These must be forever enjoyed in the secret of the Catholic heart.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE.—During recent years the problem of "Church Attendance" has been much discussed in the non-Catholic press. They make use of the all-embracing headline: "Why men do not go to Church." This is a very misleading flourish. As we have seen it remarked lately, it should read "Why Protestant men do not go to church." There is no reason to include "Catholic men in that wholesale accusation." While it is not openly stated that the Catholic men do not go to church, still, as no exception is made in their favor, the natural conclusion to draw is that they are included in the general accusation. If they are, it is unjust. We can well understand that the non-Catholic press and pulpit do not wish to set up a contrast between the church attendance of Catholics and the non-attendance of Protestants. That might lead to questions and researches that would not be palatable for them.

While the Protestant press and pulpit dare not insinuate, much less state, that Catholic men do not go to church, they harp upon the old cord that, in Catholic countries, the women alone go to church. This is absolutely false.

There are many reasons why our Catholic men are faithful to go to Church on Sunday; but of these we will merely dwell upon two. Of course there are Catholics who do not attend Mass on Sunday; but they are the exceptions, and with many of them the non-attendance is an exceptional, or accidental matter. The Catholics have an infallible authority in the Vicar of Christ and in the Church, founded by Christ. It is ordained by the Church that, under pain of mortal sin, each one must hear Mass on Sunday. There is no exception. Of course all physical incapacities and such like are considered. But under ordinary circumstances there is no exception. The Catholic's faith is such that he knows the consequences of a mortal sin. Hence his attendance at Mass not only proves his obedience to the Church, but also his belief in sin, in hell, and in the Sacraments that are given us as sources of grace and means of escaping the wrath of God. In the next place he has something to go for. It is not an eloquent sermon, nor grand music, that draws him at six o'clock of a winter's morning to church; for at that Mass there is no sermon and no music. He is attracted there by the Real Presence, by Christ, in Person, in the Sacrament of the Altar, by the sublime repetition of the tremendous sacrifice of Calvary. Protestantism has nothing of this sort to hold out to its members as an inducement to attend church. All the most sublime music in a great Catholic basilica, all the most eloquent sermons that are preached by masters of pulpit oratory, may have their effect, but they are mere accidents, mere fringes, mere auxiliaries. The one great and all important fact is the Mass and the consecration. There is the secret of the Catholic's church going; and the lack of that one great essential is the explanation of "Why Protestant men do not go to church."

MORE ROMAN NEWS.—One of the last efforts of the Roman newsmonger, is to be found expressed in the following despatch, dated from the Eternal City, on the 25th July: "The Tribune says it is reported that Cardinal Merry Del Val, the Papal Secretary of State, has tendered his resignation, owing to the hostility of the Cardinals, which indicates that they accuse him of rendering impossible an accord with France, and that the Pope has refused to accept the resignation."

We know nothing about the above, either officially, unofficially or otherwise; but we are not afraid to say that it is merely one more of those sensational attempts to create a little attention at the expense of Rome and of truth. In fact we are prepared to go as far as to say that there is not one word of truth in it. The affair is cut out of whole cloth. In the first place the "correspondent" says the Tribune says, that "it is reported." Just analyze that opening remark. The Tribune, which is entirely unofficial and unreliable, in all Vatican matters, publishes a rumor that has been started by no person knows whom, and a hungry correspondent (hungry for sensational news we mean) wires the Tribune's rumor, that has no foundation, to the American press. On this basis a whole edifice of diplomatic and international "Spanish castles" is constructed. Meanwhile, the proof that no such thing as the proffered resignation of Cardinal Merry del Val ever took place, is to be found in the saving clause at the close: "the Pope has refused to accept the resignation." That is a very safe remark. Since the Cardinal is not to resign, it saves the lie of the rumor, to say that the Pope refused to accept such resignation. Now the Pope did no such thing, for the good reason that no resignation was ever tendered for him either to accept or refuse.

But underneath all the little fabricated incident is something very important. If it were true that the Cardinal offered to resign because the Cardinals felt that he prevented an accord between France and the Vatican, and that the Pope declined to accept his resignation, it would simply mean that the Secretary of State's policy was anti-French, and that the Pope was of the same policy. This would easily make the relations between Rome and Paris more strained. We believe this sinister object to be at the bottom of the invention. The fact that it is all a big lie does not matter. Its evil effects can be produced before the lie is nailed—and then what matters the fate of a rumor accidentally wired across the ocean?

GOOD ST. ANN.—Last Tuesday, 26th July, was the feast of St. Ann, the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To-morrow (Sunday) will be the solemnization of that great patronal feast. This is certainly one of the great festivals of the Church. After Our Lord, His Holy Mother and St. Joseph, His foster father, certainly the being most cherished of God is the one who was mother of His own mother. But apart from being so high in the hierarchy of the saints in heaven, St. Ann is the special patroness of our Province, and she has marked her predilection for this country by favoring the most signal and world-renowned. She has anshrined herself in our midst and the veneration, in which she has ever been held has produced its reward in the multitude of favors she has conferred upon this Province and its people. Who has not heard of the famous shrine at Beaufre, and of the numerous miracles that have been there wrought by good St. Ann? If you look over the map of our Province you find not less than a dozen parishes named after St. Ann. We have St. Anne de Ohicoutim, Ste. Anne de Beaufre, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Ste. Anne de la Perade, Ste. Anne des Monts, Ste. Anne des Plaines, Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere, Ste. Anne de Restgouche, Ste. Anne de Sorel, Ste. Anne du Sault, and St. Ann's parish in Montreal. Now the devotion has spread still further, for in New Brunswick, Ste. Anne de Kent and Ste. Anne de Madawaska; in Prince Edward Island there is a St. Ann's, in Queen's West, in Manitoba there is Ste. Anne des Chenes, in Provencher. In Ontario

there is St. Ann's of Gainsboro. In Nova Scotia there is St. Ann's, Victoria.

There may be a number of other parishes throughout Canada, and probably there are several more in the Province of Quebec that have been dedicated to St. Ann, and the names of which now escape our memory. However, this list should suffice to show how general has been the devotion to St. Ann. Besides it must be remembered that many of these parishes are a century or more old. That of St. Anne de Beaufre is almost as old as the colony. We read of miracles there performed and of pilgrimages thereto away back in the time of the French regime. Consequently the devotion of the people of Quebec to their patron Saint and protectress dates away back to the foundation of the country. And we need but say that St. Ann has been a bountiful protectress for us. She has spared nothing to signify her approval of all the honor that has been done her. It is, therefore, with a fervor beyond the ordinary that the Catholics of this Province should celebrate the glorious day of her special feast. As it is not a feast of obligation, and as it was not possible for all who venerate St. Ann to celebrate the 26th July as they would certainly have liked to do, the Church places the solemnization on the following Sunday. It should, therefore, be a day of general confession and Communion in honor of the great and good St. Ann.

RECENT DEATHS.

MR. J. E. MULLIN.—A well known citizen in the commercial life of this city for more than half a century—Mr. J. E. Mullin—passed away after a brief illness last week. Mr. Mullin was native of the County Tyrone, Ireland. He came to Montreal during the period which is known as the pioneer days of Irish emigration to Canada. After having acquired a knowledge of the grocery business in a leading establishment of this city, he displayed that courage and enterprise so characteristic of Irishmen of his generation and entered into business on his own account. From the first he achieved success. Later he gave his brother, Mr. Patrick Mullin, who survives him, and Mr. P. S. Doyle, now doing business on his own account, an interest in the business, of which he continued the active leader until a few years ago, when it was liquidated to take up the work of organization of a cold storage company.

Mr. Mullin was as fortunate in his real estate investments as he was successful in the wholesale grocery business. Many decades ago he purchased the old site of the Montreal College from the Seminary de St. Sulpice. His keen perception and enthusiastic confidence in the great future of Montreal urged him to secure the site, which is now the very centre of commercial activity and where are now situated, in addition to the G.T.R. Co., general offices, the establishments of the leaders in produce trade of this Dominion.

Despite his manifold business undertakings, Mr. Mullin found time to devote to public affairs. He occupied the office of Alderman for several terms, representing St. Lawrence ward, in which is situated the parent Irish parish Church, of which he had been a member for many years. He also displayed much interest in the wider field of national politics, and his influence was sought by all aspirants for the representation of old Montreal Centre, now St. Ann's division, to which Irish Catholics enjoy the right of electing a representative. He made an unsuccessful attempt to enter the local legislature a couple of decades ago. Mr. Mullin was in every sense a successful business man. In dealing with commercial questions he was always calm, without prejudices, and unmovable when he had made a decision. We are informed that Mr. Mullin's will provides for the liquidation of his large estate within three years. His brother, Mr. Patrick Mullin, and Mr. P. S. Doyle, are named executors. The funeral took place from the residence of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Frank Mullin, to St. Anthony's

Church, where a Requiem Mass was sung, Rev. John E. Donnelly, P.P., officiated, assisted by deacon and sub-deacon. The attendance of citizens of all ranks was large. The interment took place in Cote des Neiges Cemetery. R.I.P.

LOCAL NOTES.

ST. ANN'S FEAST.—Large congregations attended the exercises of the Tridium held in St. Ann's Church this week. Rev. Father Strubbe was the preacher. On the morning of the feast High Mass was celebrated at 8 o'clock, Rev. A. Lemieux, C.S.S.R., officiated, assisted by Rev. C. A. Barolet, C.S.S.R., and Rev. D. J. Holland, C.S.S.R., as deacon and sub-deacon. Large numbers approached the Holy Table.

A SILVER JUBILEE.—Twenty-five years ago, after having passed the usual six or seven years of probation, Brother Dominick, a lay Brother of the Redemptorists community, pronounced his vows. This week the Rector of St. Ann's, Father Rioux, his assistants, lay brothers of the house, and many visitors from other establishments of the Order, celebrated the event, and the kindly and zealous Brother, who has been associated with St. Ann's for a long period, was the recipient of many congratulations.

CATHOLIC BOYS' HOME.—This praiseworthy undertaking, to which reference has been made in previous issues, is making good progress, and receiving many marks of sympathy from citizens of all classes. A boy from Dublin, Ireland, who was without relatives or friends, was admitted recently. Mrs. Gillet is the matron and the home is located on Wellington street, near St. Stephen street.

SUNDAY LIQUOR SELLING.—Rev. Fathers Strubbe and Holland are determined to put an end to the practise of selling liquor on Sunday within the boundaries of their parish. On Sunday last Father Strubbe made some spirited remarks on the subject.

AN OLD FRIEND.—Rev. P. Fallon, for many years associated with St. Patrick's Church, this city, was one of the welcome visitors at the editorial rooms of the "True Witness" this week. He is at present pastor of a parish in Paris, Ill., a thriving district. Father Fallon is the guest of the Rev. Fathers of St. Patrick's. On Sunday last he preached at St. Mary's Church to a large congregation.

AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL.—Mr. Michael Burke and family are spending their vacation at the Catholic Summer School, Cliff Haven. They are staying at the Champlain Club.

RETURNED TO CITY.—Dr. James T. Rodgers, 77 Park Avenue, returned to this city a few days ago from a trip to England and Ireland.

AT CALEDONIA SPRINGS.—Mr. and Mrs. B. Tansey are at Caledonia Springs.

TO ST. ANNE DE BEAUPRE.—St. Ann's parish will hold its next pilgrimage to this famous shrine on August 13th.

AT CACOUNA.—Mrs. W. J. Brennan, Durocher street, has gone to Cacouna for a brief holiday.

TO GO TO CORNWALL.—Rev. Sister St. Paula, one of the best known members of the Congregation de Notre Dame in Montreal, has been appointed Superior of the establishment of the Order in Cornwall. The "True Witness" wishes the esteemed and talented religious success in her new mission.

LEAVES MEXICO.—A former resident of Montreal, Mr. Frank Brennan, who conducted a large coal trade here, has left Mexico, where he has resided for several years, for a European trip.

A GREAT SUCCESS.—It is said that the net proceeds of the recent pilgrimage of St. Patrick's parish to St. Anne de Beaufre amounts to a little over \$1000. The ladies' committee, under the direction of Rev. Dr. Luke Callaghan, are entitled to much credit for this magnificent result.

TO LENORAIE.—As we go to press a large number of the parishioners of St. Patrick's are leaving for Lanoraie on a pilgrimage. They are accompanied by Rev. M. Callaghan, P.P., Rev. P. Fallon, Rev. Father McSweeney, Rev. Thomas Hoffernan, and Rev. Peter Hoffernan, who has the direction of the pilgrimage.

TAKES A VACATION.—Rev. Dr. Luke Callaghan left on Wednesday morning for his vacation.

CATHOLIC SAILORS' CLUB.—This week's concert was a great success, every available seat was occupied long ere Mr. Patrick Wright was called upon to take the chair. The programme was a varied one and much appreciated by the audience. Those who took part were: Miss Mabel Wayland, Miss Maggie Walker, Miss Ada Corse, Messrs. T. Ireland, T. P. Murphy, Frank O'Neil, James Jackson Charles Hammond, R. Faran, — Gosselin, W. Costigan, Joe. Allyn; Messrs. Edward, steamship Lake Erie; Bourner and Blake, Steamship Canada; Bunting, R.M.S. Tunisian. Miss B. O'Toole, Miss McCaffrey and Miss Lynch were the accompanists.

BRIEF NOTES.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES.—Thirty thousand cloth workers have struck at Fall River, Massachusetts, because their employers decided to cut their wages 12 1/2 per cent.

NUNS AS NURSES.—The local non-Catholic press of the diocese of Newport, England, continues to be considerably exercised by the determination of the Bute trustees not to advance further funds under the will of the late Marquis of Bute to the Seamen's Hospital, unless the conditions under which such funds were bequeathed be fulfilled, the condition, that is, that the nursing staff of the hospital be composed of a Catholic Sisterhood. At a meeting of the Cardiff Seamen's Hospital Committee, when the deputation which went to London to interview the trustees, gave their report, it was urged by Alderman D. Jones, J.P., and by Mr. Moore, that the Italian Hospital in London did not furnish a case analogous to that of Cardiff. Ultimately, on the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. W. S. Crossman, the following resolution was carried: "Having heard the report of the deputation, this committee resolves that we cannot agree that any department in the hospital shall be carried out under the management of any religious body, non under any guild or Sisterhood of such body." During the discussion it was stated that Lord Bute had up to the present contributed £11,000, and the public £6,000. The trustees have refused to contribute anything towards the furnishing till the question of the nursing is settled.

A GOOD MOVE.—Representatives of the medical profession in London, Eng., waited upon Lord Londonderry at the Education Office on Monday and urged the compulsory teaching of hygiene, and of the effects of alcohol, in public elementary schools. Lord Londonderry expressed full sympathy with the objects of the deputation.

LEAVING IRELAND.—The number of emigrants from Ireland last month was 3269 as compared with 2766 for the corresponding month last year.