

The True Witness



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PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP OF VALLEYFIELD. THE OATH.

Joseph Medard Emard, by the Grace of God and the Apostolic See, Bishop of Valleyfield.

To the clergy, secular and regular, to the Religious Communities and to all the faithful of the diocese, health and Benediction in Our Lord:

Very Dear Brethren: The subject which we come to treat before you to-day is one of extreme importance.

The oath is in itself one of the gravest of actions, it possesses a sacred character, and man only uses it because he is essentially a religious being and wishes to unite himself closely to his God. In pronouncing it, he, in effect, directly calls upon his Creator and Master. He calls upon Him, and, in a certain sense, forces Him to descend amongst the interests of the world, and obliges Him to appear as an irrefutable witness or, as a bond of absolute necessity. In that man binds his conscience in the most serious and the most terrible manner, since he speaks intermingling his testimony or promise with the word of God Himself, whom he calls upon as his witness.

He binds himself no less gravely towards society, which, fearing his weakness or his error, reassures itself by the fact that God Himself corroborates the oath which is taken in His name. He deposits, as it were, a pledge of his honor and his name which a lie supported by an oath would cover forever with infamy and shame; he even involves the honor of his family, which could never rise from the humiliation inflicted upon it by perjury.

And yet, very dear Brethren, the oath, so grave and so much to be feared, has become, in our days, of extraordinary frequency. It is taken, not only upon those solemn occasions for which it would appear to have been reserved, but, so to speak, on all occasions, and in circumstances in which it appears, to the least, superfluous to exact it. It is no longer vested with its sublime dignity, under the exclusive protection of those who represent authority and who regulate public affairs; it is placed in the hands of all and used every day, every instant, in the regulating of private affairs. To this frequency of swearing, which justly frightens us, is added the numerous causes which may act upon the mind and will of the one who swears, to lead him into error or to make him believe his conscience. The temptations that may beset man at certain times are so terrible, the traps set for him so subtle: the issue of a lawsuit, the victory or downfall of a candidate, the loss of relationship, of friendship, common interests, prejudices, party spirit, more or less direct outside influences, fear, sometimes a thirst for vengeance, intimidation, and to sum up everything, personal interest, solicit him so perseveringly that in order to keep within the strict bounds of truth affirmed upon oath, he stands in need of his entire faith and energy.

Also when the most serious men, honorable magistrates, complain loudly of the lightness with which the oath is (but too often treated), and of the evident profanation of which it is so unfortunately the object, we are still more pained and frightened than surprised at this cry of alarm put forth in presence of a social crime, which is at the same time a public danger.

If therefore seems necessary and even urgent to expose to you, the entire Catholic doctrine regarding the oath, in order to make you properly understand its nature and the essentially religious character which it possesses, to recall to your minds the indispensable condition without which it is absolutely forbidden to swear, to make you aware of the horror that attaches itself to the crime of perjury, and to point out to you the terrible consequences thereof, to this we conform ourselves to the di-

rection of the Church, who by the Holy Council of Trent, commands her pastors to place them before the eyes of the faithful. We render service to society which neither knows nor could find a surer or more efficacious means than the oath to maintain good order in all things public, and to guarantee peace in families, providing always that the respect due to the name of God be not diminished in their souls, and that it never be invoked otherwise than to support what is true, honest and just. We are certain at the same time to be useful to yourselves, or, at least, to all those among you, and they are perhaps quite a number, who, from one moment to another, may find themselves under the necessity of taking an oath or of exacting one.

What, then, in reality is an oath? It is the invoking of the name of God in testimony of the truth of the facts which we affirm, or the sincerity of the promise which we make. It is, therefore, God Himself, by His sacred name, His power and His eternal majesty, that comes to serve and support the cause sustained by an oath; it is as though the swearer said to his fellows: I am a feeble, mortal man, inclined to lying and error, my word alone would not be sufficient to satisfy you, believe then that of God, which I invoke, and who is my witness, that I am sincere and that I am not lying.

To take an oath, we invoke God by Himself, or by some one of his noblest creatures, in whom the divine attributes show forth, in a particular manner: we swear, for example, by the Holy Gospels, by the Cross of Christ, by the Saints, by Heaven. The oath is not only used to affirm or deny the things of the past; it is frequently used, especially in public administrations, to attest the sincerity of promises which we make to fulfill with exactness and zeal, the functions which we accept.

The promissory oath having the same qualities, the same value, and binding the conscience as strictly as the asserting oath, it sometimes happens, particularly in private relations and the exchange of oaths to which they give rise, that certain words are added to the ordinary terms by which we call upon and accept in advance, the punishment of God, if we do not tell the truth, or if we prove false to our promise, and in this case the oath is called an imprecation.

St. Paul employs the form of an imprecation in the oath which he takes to sustain the honor of his apostleship: I take God as a witness and I wish Him to punish me, if I do not tell the truth. (II. Cor., 1-20.)

In order that the oath may preserve the character of a religious and sacred act binding the conscience, it is not indispensable that it should be administered with all the legal solemnity, or with the aid of certain judicial formulas defined by the laws. It suffices, as it often happens, at least in an implicit manner and with our own intentions, that we call upon God by His own or by that of one of His creatures, that we consider as coming from Him, to bear witness, in the presence of his fellow-men, to the facts which we attest or the engagements which we undertake. That may be done by a word, an act, or a gesture expressing the intention to take oath, such as placing one's hand upon the Bible, raising it towards the Crucifix, or placing it upon the heart.

(Concluded in Next Issue.)

WATSON'S MAGAZINE—INCREASE IN PRICE.

Beginning with the February (1906) number, our Magazine will be called Watson's Magazine. It will have a handsomer cover. Several new features will be added. The price at bookstores and news stands will be 15 cents.

To be just to our present subscribers, we have decided to receive renewals and new subscriptions at \$1 a year, up to March 31st, 1906. After that the subscription price will be \$1.50 per year.

This is a golden opportunity for those who are not within easy reach of newsstands. If you have never seen the magazine, ask for a sample copy, mentioning this paper, and address, Tom Watson's Magazine, 121 West 42nd Street, New York City.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

MR. DORAN TO BE PRESENTED WITH REQUISITION.

The friends of Mr. W. E. Doran will hold a meeting in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 Alexander Street, this evening, at which they will present him with a numerously signed requisition asking him to be a candidate for the mayoralty. A general invitation is extended to be present.

APPOINTED DOMESTIC PRELATE.

On Sunday, Dec. 24, imposing ceremonies took place at Ogdensburg, N.Y., in honor of the raising to the dignity of household prelate of Rev. P. O. Larose. The new prelate is a man full of energy and zeal and very highly esteemed by the entire parish of Notre Dame, Ogdensburg, where he has been stationed for thirty-two years.

REV. J. ROY TO REPLACE THE LATE REV. J. A. H. GIGNAC AT SHERBROOKE.

The Rev. J. H. Roy, former chaplain at the Home for the Aged Poor at Pawtucket, R.I., has been named to replace the late Rev. J. A. H. Gignac. For some time before Father Roy went to Pawtucket he was superior of the Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo, Sherbrooke.

MEMBERS OF DOMINION ALLIANCE CALL ON THE ARCH-BISHOP.

A deputation from the Dominion Alliance for the Total Suppression of the Liquor Traffic, consisting of Mr. S. J. Carter, president; the Rev. G. G. Huxtable, secretary, and Mr. J. H. Carson, called on Archbishop Bruchesi on New Year's day to congratulate His Grace upon his aggressive attitude towards the vice of intemperance. The Archbishop received the delegation very warmly and assured them that he was much gratified to have their co-operation in the campaign.

BLESSING OF CHURCH AT VERDUN.

On Sunday last the blessing of the new church at Verdun took place. The ceremony was performed by His Lordship Bishop Racicot, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Lacasse and Decarie as deacon and sub-deacon of honor respectively. Rev. Father Richard welcomed the Bishop in his own name and that of his parishioners. His Lordship preached the sermon, and Rev. Father Lafontaine, of Notre Dame, celebrated Mass. Great numbers assisted at the ceremony. In the afternoon Archbishop Bruchesi made his pastoral visit, and delivered a magnificent address, afterwards imparting his blessing.

HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP BRUCHESE APPOINTED HONORARY PRESIDENT OF COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

At the annual meeting of the Colonization Society, held last Friday, His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi was appointed honorary president. Dr. Lacombe, in proposing him, paid an eloquent tribute to His Grace, who had taken such an important part in the colonization congress held recently at St. Jerome.

On this occasion there was witnessed the chief of the clergy of Montreal diocese working hand in hand with the Minister of Colonization in the interests of the work of colonization and education. Dr. Lacombe was happy to see our eminent Archbishop accept the honorary presidency which would give prestige to this laudable work.

MIDNIGHT MASS AT NOTRE DAME.

The ecclesiastical year began by solemn high Mass celebrated at midnight in Notre Dame Church. The privilege of having this Mass was accorded by His Holiness, at the instance of our Archbishop, to the members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society of Notre Dame. The last hour of the year was spent by this society in presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the main altar. Over a large congregation also assisted. The Nocturnal Society were

seated in the sanctuary, which was gorgeously decorated. At midnight His Grace robed in full pontificals, addressed the vast throng, and expressed his best wishes for the new year. He extended these same to all the Catholic families of the city, to the sick, to the prisoners, to the afflicted, to the poor, in fine, to all and every one, after which he celebrated Mass.

CHRISTMAS TREE AT ST. PATRICK'S ORPHAN ASYLUM.

Last Thursday evening witnessed one of those pleasant gatherings which leave happy memories and go to make life a little more worth living. Such was the entertainment at St. Patrick's Orphan Asylum. A Christmas tree loaded with good things had been provided, and not one inmate of the whole institution was forgotten. More than that, the guests came in for their share, which caused good natured amusement as the presentations took place. Though to the little ones the distribution of the gifts from the tree formed the most important item, yet there was one other very pleasing one, that of presenting Dr. J. A. MacDonnell with a silver salver in recognition of 25 years gratuitous service to the orphan asylum. The Director, Rev. L. W. Leclair, extended to the doctor his own good wishes and those on behalf of the orphans, and hoped he would see many happy years. The doctor replied thanking the little ones for their pretty gift and expressed his best wishes to all for a happy New Year. Dr. Harrison made an ideal Santa Claus, and gave the youngsters much amusement. The board of trustees and many friends of the institution were in attendance, and there were general expressions of pleasure at the delightful programme to which they had been treated.

AGAIN THE LILLIPIITIANS.

As is no doubt still fresh in the memories of the parents of the children frequenting St. Patrick's Girls' School, a very enjoyable entertainment was given by those little people to their many kind friends. Now, this concert was so interesting, so grand, and appealed so strongly to those who had had the pleasure of being present, that, at their request, it is to be repeated on January 11th and 22nd, at 8 p.m. on each evening. There will also be an afternoon entertainment on the 12th inst., to which we wish unqualified success. Now, it would appear that the reason necessitating these repetitions is the want of space to receive and accommodate their guests. It is certainly a great pity that those delicate little flowers of the flock, so dear to all concerned, the hope of the future, the cherished ones of home, and the bright outlook to whom all turn a fond and loving gaze, should be left behind in the race for proper expansion, and we cherish the fond hope that the day is not far distant when such space shall be given them, such a monument raised wherein they may pass that grand and noble portion of their cherished existence, their school days, as to enable them to fully gratify their enviable and praiseworthy thirst for a good, sound education and also remain as a lasting monument to the loving memory of those who shall, no doubt, have bounteously and lavishly furnished means for so noble an achievement.

CUTTING METALS WITH OXYGEN

Diamond may cut diamond, but oxygen cuts metal. The apparatus consists essentially of a tube, with two blowpipes terminating in blowpipes, moving along a guide in front of the metal plates or part to be cut at the rate of about six inches per minute.

One of the blowpipes delivers an oxyhydrogen flame, which raises the metal where it is to be cut to a temperature corresponding with dark red. The following blowpipe delivers a jet of pure oxygen, which enters into combustion with the hot metal, thus producing a clear channel like a saw cut about one-eighth inch thick, the remainder of the metal being unaffected by the operation.—Jewellers' Circular Weekly.

OBITUARY.

MR. JOSEPH DALY.

The death occurred on Dec. 27, at Edmonton, of Mr. Joseph Daly, son of Mr. William Daly, manager of the Point St. Charles branch City and District Bank. Mr. Daly was doing business in the interests of the firm of Daly & Morin when overtaken by this fatal illness. Deceased was but twenty-five years of age, with bright prospects before him, and the news of his almost sudden death came as a great shock to his parents and many friends. Mr. W. J. Daly, eldest brother of the deceased, went as far as Winnipeg to meet the body, which arrived in the city on New Year's Day. The funeral took place on Tuesday morning to St. Gabriel's Church. The Rev. George Daly, C.S.S.R., brother of deceased, celebrated the requiem Mass, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Doyle and McShane. The funeral was very large, testifying to the great respect in which Mr. Daly was held. Innumerable beautiful floral and spiritual offerings were received. The True Witness offers its sincerest sympathy to the bereaved family. R.I.P.

REV. JAMES DOUGHERTY, D.D.

Very Rev. Dr. James Dougherty, rector of St. Gabriel's Roman Catholic Church, New York, died suddenly Sunday morning of heart disease. Father Dougherty was born in Rondout, N.Y., 63 years ago. He was educated at St. John's College, Fordham, and St. Sulpice Seminary, Montreal. He was ordained in Troy, in 1867. His first charge was that of St. Joseph's, at Kingston, which church he founded. He afterwards founded the Holy Name Church at Wilbur, N.Y. In 1887 Father Dougherty went to St. Monica's Church, New York. In 1902 he was transferred to St. Gabriel's.

He was a very active worker among the poor of the east side and very popular with them. The funeral was held in St. Gabriel's Church, New York, this morning, Archbishop Farley officiating.

MR. T. BARRETT.

Mr. Thomas Barrett, who for 23 years was sexton of St. Ann's Church, died on New Year's day at his residence, 162 Ottawa Street, after a short illness. The deceased came to Montreal from Limerick, Ireland, 55 years ago. He was a nephew of Bishop O'Farrell, of New Jersey, and father of Patrolman Barrett, of the Seignours street police station.

MRS. JEANNETTE DUMOUCHEL.

Mrs. Dumouchel, one of the pioneers of Essex County, Ontario, who would have been ninety years old January 5, has just died. She is survived by two sons, Joseph and Rev. Father E. P. Dumouchel, vice-president of St. Michael's College, Toronto, and three daughters. Mrs. Dumouchel was born near Sandwich, on the banks of the Detroit river, shortly before the outbreak of the war of 1812. Her husband, Jerome, died about 17 years ago.

IM MEMORIAM.

The funeral of Ann Swoeny, beloved wife of Zacharias McIlhargey, took place on Saturday, 23rd ult., from St. Patrick's Church, Biddulph, Ontario. High Requiem Mass was celebrated by Rev. D. P. McMenamin, P.P., who at the conclusion of the service gave a grand eulogy on the deceased. His kind and earnest words brought many a tear from the vast concourse of sympathizing friends. Death is sad at all times, but much more so during the festive season of Christmas. Never before did we have to chronicle the death of a better and more saintly woman. Never before did we witness a more beautiful but sad and touching sight than we did on Christmas morning, when her devoted husband, her fond brother, William, of Nebraska, and her nine children all knelt in silent prayer and bitter tears around the freshly made grave of their loving mother. Fortified by the rites of our holy Mother Church, through her devoted pastor, Father McMenamin, she resigned herself to the Divine will and passed away in silence, listening to the sad voices of her loved ones who knelt around her death bed reciting so ardently the prayers for the

dying. The world will go on and years roll by, but memory will keep one place sacred, the place where mother lies. May her soul rest in peace.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the True Witness:

Dear Sir,—On perusing your issue of the 28th inst. my eyes lighted on an article entitled "Wicked Abominations," which I read, with interest—an interest which, however, quickly turned to disgust, not unmingled with amusement. Since you have, dear Mr. Editor, so graciously allowed your correspondent "M.L.S." the space wherein to air his views on the subject of Catholic young women, you will not, in justice, refuse us a line or two in which to make a few little remarks—to express our opinion, of little value though it be.

Let us not, dear Catholic girls, give Mr. M. L. S. the satisfaction of believing that he has aroused our indignation by his naive display of ignorance. Like the renowned Hortense of "Bleak House" fame, we "pity him and we despise him." . . . His inconsistency, to begin with, is amusing. He admits that we are refined (at least, so we take it, as he does not label it sarcasm) and then goes on to relate how we are in the habit of frequenting "dance halls, where we naturally mingle promiscuously with the worst classes of society" and how we "attend and enjoy burlesque performances," etc., etc. Strange ideas of refinement his are!

We have all met him at one time or another, this man who glories in his ignorance, who boasts of the little he knows, whose one book is the daily newspaper, with its heterogeneous collection of murders, suicides, scandals, etc., whose wit—save the mark—is borrowed from its columns and must needs be labelled "joke" lest we of the duller sex should fail to "see the point."

"M. L. S." accuses us of "feeling educated" when we come in contact with non-Catholic young men. What a crime!—to feel educated. At least the author of "Wicked Abominations" need never accuse himself of it, for he has sinned but venially.

Surely, the several hundred girls of our parish, who have passed through the hands of the good Sisters and who have done what was possible towards self-improvement after leaving school, have at least a small claim to "feeling educated." If it be a sin, I sincerely hope we may all cry "Peccevi" cheerfully and feel in nowise embarrassed.

Dear girls, let us leave this honest non-believer in education to his beloved pipe and daily news. Let him play solitaire and whistle the ever popular "Beck's" to his heart's content, but let us provide for our children fathers that they may look up to and respect fathers who shall be capable of superintending the education of their children. Let us choose husbands who shall be our true companions in every way—in intellect as well as soul, or let us die in single blessedness.

If Catholic young men of that description are so scarce that we "must seek our affinities among those of other denominations"—well, more shame to them.

I feel sure that our friend "M. L. S." can not have met many really nice girls in his journey through life. It would afford me great pleasure to make him acquainted with a few, but, alas, they are "educated."

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, in advance for the space which I know your fairness will allow me,

I remain,
Yours sincerely,
XANTIPPE.

Montreal, Dec. 31, 1905.

ST. BRIDGET'S NIGHT REFUGE.

Report for week ending Sunday, 31st December, 1905.

The following people had a night's lodgings and breakfast: Irish, 130; French, 6; English, 7; Scotch and other nationalities, 13. Total, 213.

It is a dangerous error to seek recollection in sadness: it is the spirit of God that produces recollection; sadness is the work of the spirit of darkness.