

The True Witness and Catholic Chronicle

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TERMS, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

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.

PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

SATURDAY..... OCTOBER 14, 1899.

THE CIVIC SITUATION.

No Irish Catholic of this city who ponders for a few minutes over the civic situation, with special reference to the representation of his fellow-countrymen at the City Hall, can fail to arrive at the conclusion that the present state of things is exceedingly unsatisfactory.

In a mixed community like ours there is but one standard, practically speaking, by which the position of any one of the three great sections which compose it can be judged.

Owing to the increase in the population of the city, the legislature at its last session inserted in the city's new charter clauses which provide for the subdivision of some of the more populous wards, in order that adequate representation should be fairly distributed.

the Dominion! What an impetus it would give to every interest that we have at heart! What a strong encouragement it would put in the hearts of our young Irishmen who are on the threshold of careers!

THE MAYORALTY.

We have already written much on this question of the Mayorality, but in a crisis such as the important one now before us, we cannot possibly examine the question in too many of its phases.

Possibly, from his standpoint, this may be very true; but from the standpoint of the "True Witness," we cannot conceive that any Irish-Catholic, or English-speaking Catholic, upon whom the unanimous choice of our people should fall, could, under any circumstances decline to accept the responsibility of the situation.

As we have repeatedly stated, this is an occasion when sacrifices, on all sides, must be freely made, for it is a critical period and one for the issue of which each individual will be, to a certain degree, responsible.

ganizations there are many sacrifices that must necessarily be made. They may be called upon to sink in the general cause their personal prejudices, and even dislikes -- if any such unhappily exist--their individual ambitions, their political feelings, their sectional differences.

"Now's the day, and now's the hour"; the time is charged with most vital interests. Possibly before the next issue of this paper a meeting will have been held, and that the man upon whom all efforts must be centred will have accepted the nomination.

THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE.

No sooner does the Father of the Catholic faithful indict an encyclical, send forth a nuncio, or perform any action that even remotely affects some section of the world, than speculation is rife, opinions are hazarded, and all imaginable kinds of motives are assigned--generally without the slightest knowledge of the situation on the part of the critics, and always without due consideration for the mission of Christ's Vicar upon earth.

The advent of the Apostolic Delegate has furnished an occasion for strange and erroneous comments in the Protestant press of the country. We are perfectly aware that all these expressions of opinion and attempts at sage advice, will have no more effect upon the Delegate and his mission, than all the attacks and censures of long ages have had upon the unchangeable Church whose Sovereign Pontiff he represents.

the St. Lawrence from its course. The Globe talks of peace between the Catholic and Protestant elements just as if there was any contention existing. And, in so doing, it rakes up the ashes of all the long burned out questions which have proven in the past to be sources of discord and disunion.

The Gazette advises the Delegate to "return whence he came," just as soon as he discovers "the false position he has been made to occupy"--that is to say, just as soon as he has read the Gazette's editorial. The simple truth of the whole matter is this, that the non-Catholic public, and the non-Catholic press have nothing at all to do with either Mgr. Falconio, or with his mission.

To sum up; the Delegate, as well as any other man of reflection and discrimination, can easily detect in all this a sudden race, between the leading organs of both political parties, to see which will make the most of political capital out of his presence in our midst.

"LA PRESSE" AND THE MAYORALTY.

We had always been under the impression that the French Canadian and Irish Catholic elements in this province had so many interests in common, and so many causes for mutual gratitude, that they would be ever found supporting each other in all those struggles which the municipal condition of affairs imposes upon the citizens of a free country.

Animated with such feelings it was with no small degree of astonishment that we read in "La Presse" of October 5, an editorial on the "Alternate National Representations in the Mayorality of Montreal."

ments of opinion coming from those interviewed; but we know that the French Canadians in general will not approve of them. Yet "La Presse" refrains from repudiating them. One of the gentlemen interviewed said: "There is no minority. We are all citizens, once the election is over the minority is merged in the majority."

This simply means that "might is right," that the majority has a right to usurp all privileges and that the minority should enjoy none. It is the evangel of intolerance. Yet "La Presse" thus comments upon it: "This comparison between Montreal and Toronto gives subject for reflection."

"In municipal affairs in Toronto, it suffices to be a Catholic, to be ostracised. A Protestant who would preach equal rights for Catholics would be stoned in the street."

We want to know if "La Presse" means by this that it approves of such a state of things? Or does it wish to base the ostracism of Irish Catholics in Montreal upon the ostracism they experience in Toronto? Or does it mean that because intolerant Protestantism in Toronto will allow no privileges or rights to the Irish-Catholic minority there, the French-Canadian majority here should follow the same example and deprive them of any rights or privileges in this city?

A WORD ABOUT CANDIDATES.

During the past week we have been asked, by more than one elector and reader of the "True Witness," what stand we proposed taking, during the coming municipal elections in St. Ann's Ward. It had been our intention to defer, until the eve of the contest the expression of the attitude we purpose assuming; but since so many seem anxious to know beforehand what we mean to do, we may as well put ourselves on record at this moment so that the future may contain no false impressions in this regard.

In every division--St. Ann's included--in which two Irish Catholics of equal qualifications are contesting for supremacy, the "True Witness" will allow the Irish Catholic and English-speaking Catholic electors to decide the issue for themselves. As far as we are concerned, we will have nothing to say for or against either candidate, since whichever is elected the Irish-Catholic element will be sure of good representation.

We might add that we know no sentiment except one of intense desire to see our people properly, adequately, and honorably represented.

MGR FALCONIO IN MONTREAL

In common with the prelates, the clergy, and the Catholic faithful throughout the Dominion we desire to express our sincere welcome to Mgr. Falconio, the Apostolic Delegate to Canada. The reception which His Excellency received on reaching this city, last Saturday night, and the enthusiasm, devotion, and universal joy which he encountered during his short sojourn of five days, should suffice to convince him of the deep rooted attachment which Catholic Montreal has ever felt and feels as powerfully as ever to-day, towards the See of St. Peter and towards the great and venerable Pontiff, whose special representative he is.

the Catholic community. But the Delegate has promised to return shortly to our city, when Mgr. Bruchesi would be at home, and to avail himself of that visit to become more intimately acquainted with our various splendid institutions, many of which he has already had the pleasure of visiting.

It is not for us, at this moment, to enter into any lengthy description of the ceremonies in which His Excellency has participated, nor to furnish details of all his movements during the few days that he was in our midst. We desire simply to loudly proclaim, in the name of the Irish Catholic people whose organ of expression the "True Witness" has ever been, our faith in the Holy Church to which we belong, our love and veneration for the great Pontiff, who now rules over the establishment founded by Christ, and our entire submission to his will, as conveyed to us through the distinguished prelate who now represents him in this Dominion.

A CORRECTION.

The Jesuit Fathers request us to correct the statement in our last issue that the Retreat for the English ladies of Montreal would begin in the Gesu on Nov. 15. This Retreat does not begin before November 26th, the date on which the general mission will begin in the other churches of the city.

MAYORALTY CANDIDATES.

Under the above heading the "Gazette" of last Thursday published an editorial which we are not competent to characterize. It is at once surprising and not surprising. It astonishes us that such an organ as the "Gazette," which is generally believed to be broad-minded and careful, should publish an expression of opinion which it must necessarily contradict the moment a Protestant candidate's claims are in question. The article is not long, and we would only nullify its intended effect by taking extracts from it. We have therefore, concluded to publish it in full, and to ask our readers to note it well. Any of those who attentively read this editorial--if alive two years hence--will have the pleasure of contrasting its expressions with those which will be found in the "Gazette," when the turn of a Protestant Mayor comes round. Read this! Mark it well! It is a splendid index to the true sentiments of some who would gladly be considered liberal-minded and free from bigotry or national prejudice. It runs thus:

"An effort is being made in some quarters to secure the nomination of an Irish Catholic citizen for the coming mayoralty election. Since 1875, there have been two Irish Catholic occupants of the chief magistrate's chair, Sir William Hingston and Mr. James McShane, each holding the office for two years. In the same time there have been two English-speaking Protestant mayors, Sir John Abbott and Mr. R. Wilson-Smith, each also sitting two years. The understanding that a French-speaking gentleman, an Irish-Catholic, and some kind of a Protestant should succeed each other in the mayor's chair, it will be noted from the above, has become a dead letter; nor is it likely that it can be revived. Things have changed greatly in the city since such arrangements in restriction of the people's choice could be enforced. The one in question was broken through in 1879, when Mr. Rivard succeeded Mr. J. L. Beaudry, and it was not till 1887, when Mr. Abbott was chosen, that any but a French-speaking mayor was elected. Nor were the French-speaking representatives alone in disregarding the understanding, as Mr. McShane in 1893, after a two years term, tried to, and nearly succeeded in securing a third term, and in 1894 made an effort to obtain a fourth. The succession of nationalities as a claim for election to the mayoralty may, therefore, be dismissed as not having any practical force with the general voter. Irish-Catholic and Protestant, as well as French-speaking candidates will have in future to depend on the recognition of their public services, their business success and character or their personal popularity. There are several gentlemen of Irish nationality and Catholic faith in whose behalf these qualifications can be advanced, and who, by their possession thereof, can be recommended on their merits to the general voter, who does not now care as much about the nationality or creed of his representatives as he used to be supposed to do. Entering the field on merit any of them might hope for large support in the contest that it seems likely any aspirant will have to count on. There are reasons also why the majority of the electors might support a capable and respected man presently outside of the City Council for the office."