

The True Witness

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE list of shareholders will be a roll of honor in THE TRUE WITNESS office, because it will contain the names of its rescuers. The list of subscribers will also be a roll of merit, because it represents the names of its supporters.

IN a future issue we will publish the name of each new subscriber to the capital stock of the Company. Upon the success of THE TRUE WITNESS and the measure of enthusiasm manifested during the next two weeks by the English-speaking Catholics depends the issue of a daily edition.

THE TRUE WITNESS under the new management is destined to succeed, because it will contain news of an especial interest to every English-speaking Catholic. Special attention will be given to commercial and agricultural matters in future. Every English-speaking Catholic parish in the city will have a weekly record of interesting news.

SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS are yet required to place THE TRUE WITNESS in a healthy financial condition. A share now subscribed to the capital stock of the new company means another move in the direction of maintaining the only English-speaking Catholic journal in the Province of Quebec.

IN our next issue we will publish the list of stockholders in the TRUE WITNESS, with the amount of shares taken. We trust that between this and then we will have a large number of additional names on our list. All who have generously given a helping hand in the time of difficulty will be looked upon as the privileged friends of Catholic literature, and will be gratefully remembered by this organ in the future.

ONCE more we desire to call the attention of the young men to the fact that they are represented on the Board of Directors, and that their interests, individually and collectively, will be looked after by THE TRUE WITNESS. We trust that they will, on their side, take an active interest in the welfare of the only Catholic organ, in the English language, that they possess. On the list of shareholders we hope to find the names of a goodly number of our promising young men. Now is the time to join in the good work.

SOME years ago we attended a performance at the Rideau street convent in Ottawa, and the subject of the little drama has ever since remained vividly stamped upon our memory. Theology, Philosophy, Mathematics, Geology, and all the sciences were represented by appropriately arranged characters. Each gave the list of all the benefits she had conferred upon man; and finally they all combined to crown Theology as the "mistress of all sciences." It seems to us that the day would come when some

writer would take up this form of expression and embody in a drama grand and all-important truths. Evidently the day has come. We have just received from the "Ave Maria" press, Notre Dame, Indiana, a drama in three acts, entitled, "Anima," written for the pupils of St. Mary's Academy, Notre Dame, by a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. It is written in blank verse and is a really admirable piece of composition. The language is only surpassed by the noble ideas and solid principles that it contains. The characters consist of "Anima," the Human Soul, Innocence, Scientia, Pride, the five senses (Taste, Hearing, Sight, Smell and Touch), Despair, Revenge, Faith, Hope, Charity, Poverty, Purity, Obedience, and Humility. Without further comment we would advise all our Catholic convents and young ladies' academies to secure copies of this splendid school drama. We may add that although it was written for girls, it may be adapted for entertainments given by boys and girls, or boys only. It is sold at ten cents per copy, or a dozen copies for one dollar, and can be had by addressing the office of the "Ave Maria," Notre Dame, Indiana.

LADY HERBERT OF LEA writes an article in the Month, in which she reveals a state of petty persecutions, in Russian Poland, that is beyond all conception. The Catholic priest is absolutely without any freedom. He is not permitted to go outside the limits of his own parish—not even to attend the dying. Even should he get a passport, in the case of a dying parent, he must wait several weeks for it, and the result is that when it comes he no longer requires it. It appears that one priest, last month, was fined a hundred roubles for having gone into a neighboring church and saying Mass there. Although there was no one else in the church, except the sacristan, still he was considered guilty of a grave offence. Surely the day will come when such tyranny as that will no longer be tolerated by the civilized nations.

INDEED the methods of preaching are becoming so varied and so extraordinary that some people who frequent certain churches will begin to find it difficult to distinguish between a sermon and a circus-man's oration. A week ago last Sunday, the Rev. Dr. Tyndall (a D.D., of course) created a sensation at the Broome street Tabernacle by introducing a live rooster in the pulpit. The despatch says that the reverend doctor informed his hearers that the devil hypnotized men just as he would the rooster. "He put the bird on a blackboard, pressed his head tightly down, then drew a chalk line from his beak and let him go. The rooster lay motionless for over a moment then got up and crowed much to the delight of the audience. The trick was performed three times, and then the preacher tried to do it without drawing the line, and failed." He then said that "the hypnotism is in the drawing of the

line. The devil gets men by the neck, then leads them, by the nose, down to Hell, just as I led the rooster." There is an edifying sermon for you. We hope that Dr. Tyndall did not mean anything serious in comparing the audience to a rooster and himself to the devil.

THE historian, Cesare Cantu, who recently entered upon his ninetieth year, sent a letter to the Pope on New Year's Day. The Holy Father replied in a beautiful letter, through Mgr. Voipini, sending at the same time one of his poetical effusions. The following is the poem in Italian and in English:

LA MORTE.

Del sol cadente e che si asconde omai
Splendon, Leon, su te, gli ultimi rai;
Nelle riarse vene inaridita
Lenta, lenta si spegne omai la vita
Vibra morte lo stral, le fredde spoglie
Chiusa in funereo vol, la tomba accoglie;
Ma fuor di s'ya prigion lo spirito anelo
Ratto dispiega il vol, ricerca il cielo
D aspro lungo cammin questa la meta.
Deh, Signor mio la santa voglia acqueta
E se di tanta, tua merces, son degno
Lo Spirto accogli nel beato regno.

LEONE XIII.

Vaticano, 27 gennaio 1894.

DEATH.

The setting sun, while sinking from the eye,
On thee, Leo, its fading beams reflects;
In arid veins, life's stream runs slowly dry,
And life itself th' approaching end expects.
The frigid corpse, 'neath death's vibrating
dart,
In shroud funereal wrapped, the tomb ad-
mits;
But from its prison freed, the panting heart
Spreads to the breeze its sail, and homeward
flits:
A rough and lengthy voyage here finds its
goal.
Ah! Lord, may now my holy wish have rest!
And if, by grace, thou worthy prov'st my
soul,
Then call it home to the mansions of the
blest.
Leo XIII.
The Vatican, January 27, 1894.

WE have noticed that within the past month quite a number of prominent journalists have died. The great father of "Puck," the foremost American editor of a comic paper, Mr. Keppler, has passed away; Rev. Father Casey, one of the most prominent American clerical journalists in his time, has departed; Editor Wolff of the Philadelphia "Catholic Standard," has left a vacant chair that will not be readily filled. We have read of three or four other editors, in different parts of the country, who have died during the month. Even here in Montreal we lost one of the ablest journalists of Canada in the person of the late Mr. Livingston. In fact, it would almost seem as if the month of February had some ill-luck in store for men of the journalistic profession. It is to be hoped that a good many years will pass over before grim Death reaps such another harvest.

THE January number of the American Catholic Quarterly Review is, as usual, full of most highly instructive contributions. The Very Rev. Augustine F. Hewitt, D. D., of the Paulists, furnishes another admirable article on Hancock's Dogmatic History. There are three con-

tributions that deserve a very special notice and should be read by all Catholics who take an interest in the higher questions of our Faith. The first is "St. Gregory the Great and England," by Michael Hennessy; the second is "Honorius and Liberius, Pontiffs," by Arthur F. Marshall, B.A. (Oxon), and the third is "The Church and the Empire, A.D. 250-312," by Rev. Thomas J. Shahan, D.D., S.S. Apart from all the other glowing pages, these articles alone should suffice to make the last issue of the Review one of great value to all serious students.

SOME person has started the idea of a C. P. A., "Canadian Protective Association," or rather some one claims that such is the original and proper title of the P. P. A. It seems to us that it matters very little what letters are used to designate such a body. They might make use of all or any of the letters in the Alphabet, and it would not change the spirit of the organization nor make it a whit more honest in its designs. It is the same as the A. P. A. in origin, in methods and in object. Suppose it took the second letter and became B. P. A. (Bigoted Protestant Association), it would be no better—no worse. C. might stand for "Crooked;" D. for "Diabolical;" E. for "Evil;" F. for "Foolish;" G. for "Giddy;" H. for "Humbog;" I. for "Idiotic;" J. for "Jumbo;" K. for "Kicking;" L. for "Lawless;" M. for "Muddled;" N. for "Nonsensical;" O. for "Orange;" P. for its present meaning; Q. for "Queer;" R. for "Revolt-ing;" S. for "Sickening;" T. for "Traucherous;" U. for "Unchristian;" V. for "Vile;" W. for "Wicked;" X. for "Xiphias," or sword-fish natured; Y. for "Yellow;" or Z. for "Zigzag"—but call it by whatever name you like, or add to it any letter you please, and it still remains the same hydra-headed monster that seeks to poison the atmosphere of Canada.

PUBLIC attention is greatly awakened, and we find that the tide in favor of the laudable project of placing this paper on a solid and permanent footing, is rapidly rising. In order to participate in the honor of having come to the rescue in the moment when assistance was most needed, we would invite our friends to immediately step forward and take shares—anything from one to forty may be taken.

CANCELLED Postage Stamps don't cost much, and yet if you save them up and send them to Rev. P. M. Barral, D.D., P.O. Box B, Hammonton, N.J., you will be doing an incalculable service to Catholic Missions. Later on we will explain more fully how it is that these stamps can procure so much and be the source of a host of blessings. Meanwhile, if any of our readers feel so inclined we would invite them to save all the old stamps—no matter of what denomination—and forward them to the above address.