

In and Around Toronto

The Sisters of the Sacred Heart Orphanage, St. Anside, acknowledge with sincere thanks the following contributions: Collingwood \$153.47; Merrittion, \$22.50; St. Patrick's, Niagara Falls, \$35.08.

A respected member of St. Basil's parish has passed to her reward in the person of Mrs. Ellen F. Pamphilon, who had been in failing health for some time prior to the end, on Tuesday last. Deceased was a widow but is survived by one son and a daughter.

The next meeting of the Gaelic League will be held in St. Lawrence Hall on Thursday, Jan. 14th, 1909. All members and intending members are requested to be present, as business of importance in connection with our annual concert to be held in St. George's Hall, Feb. 2nd, and also the formation of new classes in Gaelic, Irish dancing and Irish music will be transacted. Preparations for the concert are now almost complete and its entire success rests with the members.

The Sisters of St. Joseph, in charge of the House of Providence, gratefully acknowledge the many donations from generous benefactors to the poor of their Institution. May the Infant Jesus, who first called lowly shepherds to the joys of His Crib, bless them for their beneficence to His poor and may the Star of Peace and Prosperity glow in their hearts and shed its rays over their homes each day of the coming year.

On Sunday morning the death occurred of Mr. Martin Donohue of 151 Palmerston avenue. Deceased, who was one of the first employees of the old Northern, was a native of the County of Mayo, Ireland, and had come to this country in 1847. He is survived by four sons and four daughters. The sons are John Donohue, engineer, C.P.R.; Martin Donohue, superintendent of the Mason and Risch piano factory; Michael Donohue, also with Mason and Risch, and William Donohue, manager with the Standard Paint and Varnish Co., Windsor. A married daughter is Mrs. McNulty of Seattle. The funeral took place from St. Francis' church. R.I.P.

The funeral of Rev. Father Drohan, C.S.B., whose death occurred in Texas, took place from St. Basil's church on Saturday morning. The church was filled with the sorrowing relatives and friends and a large contingent of the priests of the city and from outside were in the sanctuary. The solemn Mass of Requiem was sung by Rev. F. DuMontel, C.S.B., assisted by Very Rev. N. Roche, C.S.B., President of St. Michael's college, as deacon and Rev. Father Hayes, C.S.B., as sub-deacon. The solemn music of the Mass and Libera was chanted under the leadership of Rev. Father Murray. Interment took place at St. Michael's cemetery. R.I.P.

Hundreds of the poor and afflicted of the city and throughout the Province have lost a friend in Sister Mary Paul of the House of Providence, whose death occurred on Tuesday and whose funeral takes place this (Thursday) morning. The deceased Sister, who was seventy-one years of age, had spent fifty-five years in the community, and the greater part of this long period of service had been given to the poor and distressed who came within her charge. "Nothing too good can be said about Sister Paul," someone said, and this means that the virtues and particularly that of charity of the warmest and most comprehensive type were hers. The prayers of hundreds will follow Sister Paul, and her memory will long remain green in the hearts of those whom she so often and so tenderly assisted. May she rest in peace.

At the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes the dawn of Christmas was welcomed by Midnight Mass, special permission having been given by His Grace Archbishop McEvay. Not since the close of the first year of the new century had Mass been celebrated before at the midnight hour, and the occasion was greeted by a congregation that thronged the sacred edifice, many of those seeking admission not even securing standing room. It seemed as if the whole congregation approached Holy Communion. The celebrant of the Mass was Rev. Father Kidd, who was assisted by Very Rev. Dr. Burke and Rev. Father Cruise as deacon and sub-deacon respectively. The sermon preached by Very Rev. Dr. Burke dwelt briefly and simply on the facts and fitness of the Nativity. It required no words to that presence to unite all souls in love to the Divine Infant. Dr. Burke said, too, that even outside the Church a greater respect for the truths of religion on which a moral people could alone subsist, inclusive and emanating from the Incarnation, was everywhere noticeable, and in Canada the blasphemous scoffers of some years ago was happily now seldom in evidence. The music was under the direction of Mr. W. H. Fanning, and the technically correct and devotional manner in which it was rendered, added much of impressiveness and beauty to the occasion.

The music this Christmastide at St. Basil's was again of the usual high order. The Mass

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chosen was one written for male voices by De Tazo, and although it is not a new one to the members it must be admitted that never before has it been rendered with such precision and finish. At the offertory a most artistic rendering of Gounod's "Ad Regem Pastorum" was given by Judge Anglin, in which the choir sustained the choral effects. After Mass the congregation remained to hear Vincent Novelle's "Adeste Fideles," in which the soloists, Messrs. Delehay, Pickering, Kirwan, Charlebois, and Grant, and the choir, acquitted themselves most admirably. The Rev. E. T. Murray directed the choir, whilst Mr. E. Jules Brazil presided at the organ. The choir on this occasion was augmented by voices from Hamilton and other points, and Father Kelly, in his remarks from the pulpit, expressed his satisfaction at the progress which is being made by the choir. Com.

The spirit of Christmas at the Cathedral may be taken as typical of that which enveloped our churches everywhere on the great Festival. The beautiful church arrayed in evergreens and its altars aglow with many lights and flowers was at its best. His Grace Archbishop McEvay was celebrant of the Mass, and afterwards bestowed the Papal Benediction. Rev. Father O'Malley delivered the sermon of the day. Later His Grace addressed the congregation as follows: "My Dear Brethren—I wish to join with the clergy in wishing you all the joys and blessings of this Holy Season. I congratulate both priests and people on the large numbers who have this morning received Holy Communion. This is certainly the best way to celebrate the great Feast of Christmas—to give glory to God and peace to men. On this occasion an outside of our parish united in the Reverend Clergy of the Diocese, the Religious communities and the Faithful Laity for the kindness and generosity which I have received from them. It is a pleasure to give thanks not only to Catholics but also to non-Catholics who in many parts of the Diocese have shown me much courtesy and good-will. Glory to God and Peace to Man. Glory to God by loving Him above all things, and peace to man by ever remembering that every man is made to the image of God and should be loved for the love of God. God is all love and peace and joy; and with the advantages we enjoy in a free country like this it is easy to spend the whole year in union with God and in the peace and joy which no man can take away. This is the perpetual Christmas that I wish you, one and all—the peace of a good conscience, the peace of God and the peace of Eternity."

Father Sheehan's Latest Reflections

(The Catholic Universe.) The latest year-book by the very Rev. Canon Sheehan of Doneraile, will prove a new delight to those charmed by its companion volume, "Under the Cedars and the Stars." The new book is called "Parerga" and, like its predecessor, carries the reader from autumn to autumn—Father Sheehan measures this year by the ecclesiastical calendar—on a current of wise reflections, keen observations and seasonable meditations.

Subjects the most diverse are treated in "Parerga." It is the diary of a scholar, a poet, a humanitarian and a parish priest who records what he thinks and sees and feels from day to day. There are suggestive passages inspired by the author's priestly experiences among the poor, as the poor journalist-soldier, home from Africa the victim of incurable cancer, and courageously diagnosing his own case; or by the changing aspects of nature in Ireland, or her political and social conditions. A reviewer in the Boston Republic quotes this from "Back to the Land" which the author hails as the opportunity and legitimate cry of all social reformers who really take to heart the interests of nations: "Here in Ireland, this little rugged rock in the North Atlantic, we are prone to think that our problems and difficulties are our own peculiar property which, except for sympathetic assistance, should have no concern for the world at large. We are so insular in our ideas, that we do not see that just as we shape the characteristics of other conquered races, so are we working out the same issues. Our little grievances, which English statesmen laugh at, are in reality not Irish problems, but world-problems. If the quadrature of the circle could be solved in Ireland, it would effect the universe, and if we can solve the labor problem, the problem of taxation, the land-problem, we shall solve them not only for our own benefit, but for humanity at large, and for generations yet unborn."

Canon Sheehan rests our heads between his consideration of economic problems and his reflections on the classics of literature with delightful "homey" incidents in the lives of his household pets; for like all good and great men, he loves the animal creation.

This is his estimate of Shakespeare: "If it could be proved that Shakespeare was a myth, it would be a greater loss to England than that of her Indian Empire, or even—Ireland."

If we were England, comments the Republic's critic, we would pray to lose Ireland. Yes, we should give her away. We should send her with our best compliments across the seas to her myriad children in America, and rejoice at her association with the sisterhood of the States of the Union. England, unwilling to part with Ireland as undoubtedly she is, minds us of a man with a sword in his flesh unwilling to have it drawn. What a sorceress is this Ireland that the pricking of her poniard is sweeter than another's caresses! We marvel at Canon Sheehan for preferring Milton to Shakespeare, and for rating "In Memoriam" above "The Idyls of the King."

Who would have looked, however, in the pages of "Parerga," enveloped as they are in the tender mist of an Irish

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pine Islands are Irish priests. I desire particularly to allude to the great work of the Redemptorist Fathers sent to me from Limerick. There are eight of these devoted men and they are most efficient and self-sacrificing." Bishop Hendrick praised the priests of the diocese of Sligo for their espousal of the temperance cause and continuing he said: "I have traveled much of Europe and America and I am pleased to state that in my opinion, there is less intemperance in Ireland to-day, as denoted by the presence of intoxicated persons in the streets and at public gatherings, than in any country that I have visited. More than this I will say that there is a striking comparison between the people of Ireland and other people in this respect." The Bishop gave it as his opinion that this condition is to be attributed to the splendid work of the Catholic temperance organizations in Ireland.

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