

THE CONNAUGHT RANGER'S CORNER.

THE A. O. H.

The following poem is from the pen of Dr. J. T. Gallagher, M.D., of Division 37, Charlestown, Mass.:

"The A. O. H., the A. O. H., God bless it night and day,
And may the angels guide and guard and keep it from decay.
Oh, may it grow from age to age in strength and unity,
And link the Gael in friendship's chain and Christian charity!"

In evil days, when Ireland sank immersed in penal gloom,
It rose the messenger of hope from out the nation's tomb,
Stood strong as granite battlement around the stricken Gael.
And scourged full oft in breach and field the bloodhounds of the Pale.

It held aloft the torch of faith and morals in the land,
And guarded well the hunted priest when Erin's creed was banned.
The magic tongue of bard and chief, the golden Celtic lore,
It snatched from out oblivion's grave to live for evermore.

It clasps the exile to its breast beneath whatever sky,
Relieves the widow in distress and dries the orphan's eye.
The poor, the friendless and the sick receive its tender care,
And for its dead ascends to God its daily fervent prayer.

Ere spoke the guns of Lexington across the sea it came,
The foeman heard on Bunker Hill and trembled at its name,
On field and flood, Columbia! what- ever thundered Mars,
To glory, fame and victory it bore the Stripes and Stars.

And in the future as the past 'twill battle in the van
For justice, right and liberty for every creed and clan;
As faithful guard the starry flag on its adopted strand,
As ever did its valiant sires the green on native land.

The A. O. H., the A. O. H., God bless it night and day,
And may the angels guide and guard and keep it from decay!
Still may it grow, from age to age, in strength and unity,
And link the Gael in friendship's chain and Christian charity.

THAT DAILY PAPER AGAIN.—Division No. 7, A.O.H., composed of the brightest and most intelligent aggregation of young Irish men of this city, met on Monday evening, in the Prendergast Hall, on Repery Street, for the transaction of business. Mr. Denis Tansey, Jr., the popular President presided. Three propositions were received from applicants and referred to the investigating committee. Various matters were discussed, amongst which was a project to start an Irish Catholic daily paper. It met with the warm approbation of the members present. President Tansey, afterwards speaking of the matter, said that such a project would meet with the warm approval and support of every Irishman and Irishwoman in Canada.

C. M. B. A.—Branch No. 1, C.M.B.A., Grand Council of Quebec, held its regular meeting on Monday evening in the Seminary Hall, Notre Dame St. Chancery Lappin presiding and Mr. T. J. White acting as secretary. Treasurer, Mr. Henry Bulger, telegraph operator, of Vaudeville, was initiated and the applications of two others were received. Grand Deputy Meek was present, and acted as Chancellor. The resolutions of condolence forwarded to the Supreme Council, on the death of Supreme Secretary Hickey, were very much appreciated by the Supreme officers, and a duplicate copy sent back to the Branch beautifully engraved.

PERSONAL NOTES.—President O'Rourke is enjoying his well-earned vacation at St. Agathe, and W. J. Scullion, financial secretary, is perambulating around Cacouna.

THE STALWARTS EAST.—The East End Division (No. 4) of St. Mary's, still continues to add largely to its numbers. The meeting on Monday evening at which Provincial Treasurer Kearns presided, was well attended. Four new members were initiated, eight elected and seven proposed. The Division intends to hold a grand entertainment on Halloween Night.

A. O. H. EXTENSION.—Negotiations are in progress for the organization of a Division of the A. O. H. in Cornwall on Labor Day. The County President will accompany Division No. 6, which holds an excursion on that day. A large number of the Irish residents of the Factory Town, are jubilant over the prospect of having a branch of the great Catholic organization in their midst.

There is a large field for operations in that district, and there is no reason why one of the most prosperous divisions of the Order in Canada, should not be established there. It is expected that Provincial President Duffy, and Provincial Secretary McCaffrey, of Toronto, will be present at the inauguration of the new Division.

NO. 5 WANTS A DRIVE.—The regular meeting of Division No. 5 on Wednesday evening, which was of a very interesting and pleasant nature, was more of a social than business one, nevertheless quite an amount of interesting Division work was done. The necessary preparations for the first Trolley drive were reported as being complete, and judging from the remarks of different members of the committee the outing will be a splendid success. It is to be hoped that the weather clerk will favor the Division. President Phelan presided. Amongst the visiting members present were: Mr. D. Tansey, President of Division No. 7; Mr. H. J. Hummel, President Division No. 9; W. P. Stanton, Vice-President of Division No. 9; P. J. Gordon, of No. 9; M. Hanson, of No. 7; and M. Bermingham of No. 6. The literary part of the meeting was thoroughly enjoyed by the members. Those contributing being: Mr. Denis Tansey, Mr. W. P. Stanton, Mr. J. Tobin, Mr. M. J. Hickey.

THE OLD STALWARTS.—The arrangements for the excursion of the Young Irishmen's L. & B. Association down the river Labor Day, are progressing well. The members of the executive are well satisfied with the look of things just now. This organization has always had a bevy of enthusiasts in its ranks who neither spare time or money in advancing its welfare. Its records show it to have been thoroughly Irish national at all times. It is now striving to secure the financial means to carry out a new hall building. All the public functions under its auspices are held with this end in view, and in consequence they should meet with hearty support.

DIVISION NO. 8, without doubt ranks as one of the most remarkable and progressive branches of the Hibernian organization. Every member is a hustler, and laboring most assiduously to make it the banner Division of Canada. Not two months old, yet it has now a membership of one hundred and fifty, and at each meeting from ten to twenty of our young Irish and Irish-Canadians are coming into the ranks. At the meeting on Wednesday evening President John Lavell presided; a pleasant feature of the evening was the initiating of fourteen young men, chiefly from St. Ann's Parish. The band recently organized by this Division, will be turned over to the County Directors on next Friday evening. After the regular routine of business had been gone through, the dramatic section entertained the members to a choice selection of songs, recitations and music.

DIVISION NO. 3, A. O. H., held its regular semi-monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, and it was numerously attended. President Gallery presided. Ten applications for membership were received and a report from the excursion committee offered the fact that it will be the most successful ever held by the branch. All indications point to a large attendance and a first class orchestra has been engaged for the lovers of the light fantastic. The committee are to be congratulated for the great work they have done in the matter.

THE HIBERNIAN KNIGHTS will meet in their hall on Sunday afternoon. A large amount of business is to be transacted, particularly in connection with the trip to Boston. Every member is requested to be present.

THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE.—The regular monthly meeting of the St. Patrick's Total Abstinence and Benefit Society, took place Sunday afternoon, August 13th, Vice-President Walsh occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance of members. After the usual routine business was transacted, the names of the winners of the prizes offered for those who succeeded in obtaining the largest number of prizes for the picnic which was held Dominion Day, were announced. The first prize was awarded to Mr. W. Dunne, and consisted of a beautiful set of gold cuff buttons. The second went to Mr. M. Sharkey. A year's subscription to the "True Witness." Messrs. Dunne and Sharkey are two of the most assiduous and earnest workers which the society possesses, and are to be congratulated on their good fortune, in securing such valuable prizes. The members greeted them with loud applause, as they were proclaimed the victors on this occasion. The society is in good financial condition, has a large membership, (though there could be more), and is doing noble work in the great cause of temperance. Prosperity may attend the noble efforts of the sons of the great apostle of temperance in trying to save young men and old ones also, from one of the greatest evils of the present day.

fers to opium as a gift of "the gods," for the spirit of his statement is even more pagan than the expressions, "Pagan and materialistic" is this suggestion. For the sake of deadening pain, yet without any hope of arresting the progress of the disease, or of prolonging life, he would have the patient slumber away the last and most precious days and hours of existence, and drop imperceptibly from an opiate dream into the reality of eternity. But it is in order to alleviate suffering, we are told. Is pain, then, such a terrible evil, that the mind, the thoughts, the reasoning powers, the will, and all the faculties must be offered as a sacrifice upon its altar? One second after the inevitable death has come the victim of cancer, or of any other disease, will realize the value of all that he has lost. He has had no suffering, no opportunity of offering up his pains as a propitiatory sacrifice for the atonement of his sins. He has lost the opportunity of his life, and a certain salvation has been rendered uncertain by the humanitarian sentimentality of a good-natured physician. He has been allowed to pass into the dread presence of God without being able to say a prayer, to offer a thought, to make an act of contrition. Life has been lulled into insensibility that he might not know what pain is, and has been ushered into the halls of eternal justice without a second's preparation.

What are all the pains, sufferings and tortures of a few days, or weeks, or months, compared to the glorious privilege of possessing one's faculties, and of seeing clearly the abyss that yawns at one's feet? We repeat, this idea of opium as a blessing is both false in fact and unchristian in principle. There is something so absolutely pagan about the statement that the Catholic mind recoils from its cold, hollow, prayerless spirit.

OUR CURBSTONE OBSERVER AS A CRITIC.

OUR CRITIC.—Since the appearance in the "True Witness," of my observations of Civic Affairs, the "Herald" has done me the honor of reproducing in a Saturday issue almost the entire article. That was complimentary to the "True Witness," and equally so to its correspondent. However, some writer, signing "H. St. V.," addressed a letter, dated, Montreal, July 31, to the Herald in which he finds fault with my contentions regarding Irish-Catholic representation. In fact this writer is somewhat severe in his language and cutting in his criticisms. Individually I know nothing about "H. St. V." I never saw even his initials before they appeared under the letter in question; consequently I would not consider it worth my while refuting what he advances, were it not that he has opened up the whole question in a manner that demands correction, and that his remarks are calculated to mislead all readers who are unacquainted with the exact situation in Montreal. To analyze and answer that communication I cannot do better than take it piece by piece and refute it or explain the circumstances that it seems to ignore. I will, however, have to commence with the last paragraph, for in the logical statement of his case, it should have been the first one. I will then proceed, briefly, to touch upon the entire letter.

A TRUE STATEMENT.—The "Herald's" correspondent, "H. St. V.," says in closing his criticism:

"The only qualifications which the people should look for in an aspirant to a seat at the council board should be capability, honesty and integrity, and when all classes of citizens realize this and eliminate the race and religion question from civic politics, the necessity for the Herald to open up the subscription lists for the purpose of keeping the streets in a respectable condition will cease."

I, for one, will never dispute this contention; that the qualifications of a civic representative should be capability, honesty, and integrity goes without saying. I am also prepared to join him in saying that it would be far better were the race and religion question eliminated from our civic politics. But all this is outside and foreign to the issue before us. We must accept the situation as we find it; it is none of our making. Since it has been customary to draw lines of demarcation between the representation of this creed and that one, this nationality and the other, we cannot but claim that at least a fair proportion of that representation be accorded to the element to which we belong. It has been an unwritten regulation that the position of Mayor should be occupied successively—each in turn—by an English-speaking Protestant, a French-Canadian Catholic, and an Irish-Catholic. This understanding by no means precludes the idea of "capability, honesty and integrity," on the part of the men chosen to fill that office; but it does suppose that, when the turn of an Irish-Catholic comes, the Irish-Catholic element will put forward the best and most competent as well as most acceptable man in its ranks; and the same for the English-speaking Protestants, and the French-Canadians. Consequently what stands good in regard to the place of first magistrate must equally apply in that of aldermanic representation. If the Irish-Catholic element were not a factor more important than many of those mentioned by "H. St. V.," it would not have been ranked with the other two elements, as claimants for representation in the mayoralty. The English-speaking Protestant element includes all Protestants, no matter to what Church they belong; and all of them combined are not more important, as a civic factor, than is the Irish-Catholic one alone.

A POSSIBLE EXCUSE.—I will now take the first sentence of "H. St. V.'s" letter and follow it down to the last one, which I have above quoted. In opening he says:

"To a stranger who has been but a short time in your city, the article which appeared in the Herald on Saturday containing extracts from a correspondent in the 'True Witness' seemed ridiculous, in the extreme. In what other city but Montreal on the American continent would a citizen make such opinions public? The contentions therein seem preposterous to an ordinary observer."

The fact of "H. St. V." being "a stranger, who has been but a short time in your city," may explain his lack of knowledge in regard to the civic situation here. This alone would constitute an excuse for his misapprehension of our affairs; and it certainly suffices to prevent me from dealing with him in the manner that I would treat any one who should know better than he does the history of the different national and religious sections of our population. The extracts from my correspondence may have seemed ridiculous to a stranger. Were I to land in New York, or Glasgow, or Brussels or in any other foreign city, with which I was practically unacquainted,

I might read in the press of the place comments and statements that to me would appear ridiculous; but I would certainly not rush into print, and display my own ignorance of the local situation, by constituting myself the critic of matters that awakened no criticism on the part of the residents and the most interested people. He would like to know in what other city on this continent would a citizen make such an opinion public. Possibly in no other city on the continent, wherein the peculiar circumstances that here surround the Irish-Catholic people exist. A little longer residence here will teach "H. St. V." what I mean.

TRUE AND NOT TRUE.—"H. St. V." thus goes on:

"The writer claims for the Irish-Catholics a larger representation in the City Council than it obtains at the present time—not because of their business capacity nor of their capability of filling the offices with credit to themselves and their constituents, but for the simple reason that they are Irish-Catholics."

This is partly true and partly false; here again we have an evidence, that the writer is not well posted. I claimed a proportionate representation for the Irish Catholics, without any question being raised as to capability, or capability. I am not yet prepared to admit that we have not as competent and as well qualified men as are possessed by any other element; on the contrary, I believe we have. But that is not the question. Will all the capacity, and all the capability that the human imagination can conceive in an individual, cause an English-speaking Protestant, or a French-Canadian Catholic to look after the special interests of the Irish-Catholic people? Certainly not. I am anxious to see the most competent men in the Council; but I am not prepared to see my own people left without a voice to plead their cause, simply because there are men of transcendent talent to be found amongst the other elements of our mixed population.

A FALSE PREMISE.—Continuing the writer says:

"Have they any better right to such a representation than the English or French Catholics, the Anglicans, the Scotch Presbyterians, the Methodists or any one of the numerous religious sects which go to make up the population of Montreal? Is a member of any of the above sects, who has the qualifications necessary for the position of alderman in a city of nearly 100,000 inhabitants to be set aside because he does not happen to be one of the 60,000 Irish Catholics?"

I never contended that they (the Irish Catholics) had any better right to representation than has any other category, of our citizens; but I did claim, and do still maintain, that they have an equal right—always proportionately speaking. No person ever asked that "a member of any of the above sects" should be set aside because he does not happen to be an Irish-Catholic; but I do insist that because a man is an Irish-Catholic he should not, for that reason, be set aside. It is difficult to deal with "H. St. V.," because he is a prejudiced stranger and possibly a bigot; but I will inform him—since he is not conversant with our history—that there is no example in all the annals of Montreal's civic administration, of any other element electing an Irish-Catholic, while, on the other hand, the Irish-Catholic element has almost continuously, and in all sections of the city, elected men belonging to other creeds or other nationalities. Can "H. St. V.," point to a single Protestant or French division that has ever chosen an Irish-Catholic? I can inform him of scores of Protestants and of French-Canadians, that since Confederation, have received the Irish-Catholic support. I do not claim that the fact of being an Irish-Catholic should constitute the sole necessary qualification; but I do contend that the fact of being an Irish-Catholic should not constitute a barrier.

SOMEWHAT HAZY.—We now have the following sage comment from the pen of "H. St. V.":

"The numerous expositions of the rottenness of Montreal's municipal machinery set before the public by the Herald during the past year or two should act as a deterrent to any such scheme as that advocated by the correspondent."

If this has any meaning at all, it must be that I advocated some scheme whereby "the rottenness of Montreal's municipal machinery" would be increased, or perpetuated. If this is not his meaning, then he is merely writing nonsense. Now, I advocated no scheme whatever; but even if I had proposed some scheme, it surely would not be contended that what I proposed for the future—being something new—could have been the cause of the past "rottenness, etc., etc." "H. St. V." is even a greater stranger to logic than he is to Montreal. If I were inclined to juggle with his literary

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GRAND

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M. J. POWER, Rec. Sec.

curiosity, or play, pitch-and-toss with his statements. I might say that it is exactly because my supposed scheme has never been adopted that the "rottenness" existed. Or I might say that had we the proper representation in proportion to influence, numbers and interests, there would have been no need of the Herald's exposures. I am just writing this, not as serious argument, but merely to show how illogical this stranger-critic really is.

RIGHT AND WRONG.—We are now treated to the following piece of municipal wisdom:

"The common sense method is to elect the best business men that can be induced to come forward, no matter of what race or creed—men who would have the interest of every inhabitant of the city at heart, and not those who would narrow down their labors for the benefit of one-sixth of the population."

Always considering that I am dealing with one who is a stranger, and who consequently cannot be expected to know whereof he writes, I will inform "H. St. V." that it is in accordance with the spirit of our Municipal Code that when a man is elected for any particular ward, he is at the same time elected to represent the interests of the whole city, and of each particular element of the population. While his special attention, in local matters, is expected to be given to his own ward—especially on account of his supposed familiarity with its conditions and needs—yet his duty is to keep before him the general requirements of the city, as a whole, and of the citizens of the city irrespective of all accidents of race, or creed. This much being premised, his sentence, to be right, should read:

"The common-sense method is for each element to elect the best business men that it can induce to come forward, men who would have the interest of the city at heart, because in laboring for the city's best interests they would be laboring for the best interests of their own special constituents."

A LAST PARAGRAPH.—I have but little to say regarding the following:

"The writer complains that two or three offices which were once filled by Irish Catholics who have since passed away, are now occupied by members of other races or creeds. If these departments are not being administered to the satisfaction of the public then he has a perfect right to protest, but the ground to take is not one of race or creed."

This is the same condition in another form. I never questioned the ability or honesty of the gentlemen who occupy the offices above referred to; but their integrity, talents, capacities, capabilities, or adequate qualifications have nothing to do with the fact that these offices were once filled by Irish-Catholics, and that such is no longer the case. I do not know to what Church, or what race "H. St. V." belongs; but I am certain he is not an Irish-Catholic. I will suppose a most improbable, and almost impossible case; let us say that the places referred to have been held by Protestants, or by French-Canadians, and that Irish Catholics were appointed to fill the vacancies; and that these Irish-Catholics were men of the highest capabilities and qualifications—what would be "H. St. V.'s" argument? Would he, under such circumstances,

cling to his present contention: on would he cry out because the difference was in "whose ox was gored?" If he would write, in this supposed case, as he has done in the above-quoted letter, I would be the first to acknowledge his consistency, but I would have to doubt his statement as to his being a stranger.

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Note and Comment.

In the July number of the Contemporary Review, there is a very scientific and elaborate article on the subject of "The Cancer Problem," from the pen of Wood Hutchinson, M. D. With the medical analysis of the cancer we have nothing to do, nor do we pretend to judge of the treatments suggested by the learned physician; but we claim that in his closing paragraph he makes a statement that is absolutely

entirely contrary to the Catholic idea of what is moral.

He says: "If the disease returns after an operation, or has spread too far to permit of a removal, before it is seen by the surgeon, we have still a palliative left, the greatest gift of the gods to suffering humanity—opium, which will render the sunset hours of life not only almost painless, but even comfortable."

It is well that Dr. Hutchinson re-