

The *Witness*

TESTIS IN CÆLO FIDELIS

AND

TRUTH THROUGHOUT

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

IN THIS ISSUE we give the full text of the admirable Encyclical of His Holiness Pope Leo XIII., on the subject of the Holy Rosary. Although we are now almost at the end of October, and this is the month specially dedicated to that beautiful devotion, still there is no limit to the recommendation of the Holy Father, and the devotion of the Holy Rosary is by no means confined to one month. It is certainly one of the most acceptable forms of prayer, and if any indifference has been felt by some members of the Church in this regard, the powerful and fatherly words of the great Pontiff should for ever dispel it. Only on subjects of the greatest importance does the Pope issue encyclical letters; and this one, sent out in the midst of all the countless duties of this jubilee year, is an evidence of the high importance given by the Church and the Sovereign Pontiff to the devotion of the Holy Rosary. We trust that our readers will peruse it carefully.

IT APPEARS that Mr. Israel Tarte is of opinion that the word "Catholic" is out of place in the St. Jean Baptiste Society. He and the Patrie, as well as the Canada Revue, do not agree with the Ottawa Society in its decision that the organization is Catholic as well as national. Mr. Tarte wants to be liberal minded; he wants to "out-Herod Herod"; he is anxious to be more Liberal than the Patrie itself; in fact, in his hurried leap from the Conservative camp into the Liberal one, he miscalculated the exact distance, and he could not stop where he landed, but has been going on in a succession of deer-like bounds to keep himself from falling and to regain his equilibrium. We have a little problem for Mr. Tarte, the Patrie, *et hoc genus omne* to solve. The grand and time-honored motto of the French-Canadians is, "Nos institutions, notre langue et nos lois." If the French-Canadian, who becomes Protestant, or is the son of one who became Protestant, is the bitterest enemy of Catholicity, if he despises everything that we respect, scoffs at our faith, tramples upon our traditions, seeks to proselytize our co-religionists, and, in a word, is opposed to our Church, our religious communities, our educational system and our every inheritance, how is Mr. Tarte, or his friends, going to get that Protestant French-Canadian to support "nos institutions religieuses et nationales?" Efface the word "Catholic" and you must wipe out the first word on the motto—"nos institutions." One more question: When the next celebration of the feast of St. Jean Baptiste comes around, are your Protestant French-Canadians going to be kept out of the principal portion of the ceremonies, or are they to be expected to attend High Mass and walk in the procession behind the cross? Unless these Protestant members of the society can participate in the full enjoyments of the society's celebrations, they can only be

half members, "fish out of water." Mr. Tarte must either cut out of the national *fe'e* day programme the religious ceremonies, the celebration of Mass; or else allow the religious and national elements to blend as before and consequently retain the word "Catholic." A St. Jean Baptiste celebration without the religious ceremonies would be a farce; but Mr. Tarte is a great *farceur*; however, we would like to know how he will solve our problem and answer our question.

WE received a letter from a correspondent in Arthur, Ont., asking us about an amount of money said to be left in India to Frank, Charles and Philip Rinehard, by the widow of Frank Rinehard. We are sorry to say that we never heard of this fortune, nor do we know whether there is any truth or not in the rumor.

A SUBSCRIBER writes to us as follows: "We find in our great city many young lads, who are hardly able to walk, smoking cigarettes. They buy them in the stores and pay, as I suppose, five cents per package. Of course all the badness is not in buying and smoking them. A young lad opens a package and finds a little card on which some of the most filthy pictures, that eyes of man could behold, are painted. The child is delighted with the picture. Why? Because he does not see any badness in it yet; but you know, dear Mr. Editor, that sooner or later those young fellows will curse the day they bought the first package of cigarettes. This, I think, is still more dangerous a way of corrupting our young citizens, than even the posting of bills on fences. The agents and snares of the devil are numerous and dangerous; above all for the young. I think it would be a charity, for you, dear Sir, to try and banish this source of scandal as you banished that of immoral bills." This letter requires no comment. But we will take the hint given.

OUR friend "Desire" gives us again, and in a more tangible form, that question about secret societies. "Does the Church condemn them on the ground of their plotting, from a general view? Does the Church object to societies maintaining entire secrecy as to their meetings, business, &c., plans or other social matters?" This is a subject that would demand fully a volume in order to treat it satisfactorily. In the first place the signs, passwords, and all such so-called secrets of societies are not in reality secrets; they are like the counter-sign given to the sentinels during a time of war—liable to be changed every night and simply for the purpose of recognition. The real secrets of a secret society consist in their political, moral or social aims, and the means adopted to attain them. All such secrets which cannot bear the light of investigation are necessarily evil; therefore, the Church condemns all secret societies—or societies that hide beneath an oath the symbol of their purpose, and that will not allow the presence of a Catholic chaplain at

their most secret meetings. This is a general answer; to give a detailed one would necessitate half a hundred article.

LORD SALISBURY has at last given vent to his real sentiments and aims regarding Ireland. At a recent meeting in Ormskirk, near Liverpool, he indulged in some very pointed and rather rough insinuations. According to the report of his speech,

"Lord Salisbury declared that in the event of Home Rule being given to Ireland the navy would have to watch another coast, which, if England became embroiled with a foreign power, would more likely prove hostile than not. Napoleon, he added used to say if he secured Antwerp it would be a pistol presented at the mouth of the Thames. The British people did not want pistols presented at the mouths of the Clyde, Mersey and Avon."

Does it at all strike his Lordship that in case of justice being done to Ireland, and legislative autonomy being granted her, England would have her closest friend and strongest ally in that same country? Would it not be a guarantee for England to have not only a pistol, but thousands of Irish rifles, at the mouth of every river in Ireland to repel the advance of any enemy coming to attack the British Empire? All unwittingly, and in his vindictive desire to prejudice the cause of Ireland, Lord Salisbury has furnished a glorious argument in favor of Home Rule and an evidence of the spirit that animates the British Tories. Thanks to Salisbury! It is now in order that Balfour should commit some equally silly blunder.

THE CENTRAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL has been making strong efforts to secure a night school for St. Ann's district this year. Mr. P. J. Ryan, the delegate of the Council, placed the matter very forcibly before the authorities, and has succeeded, so far, in interesting the members of the Provincial Government in the matter. The Board has consented to grant the school if the necessary funds are secured. We hope that eventually success will crown the efforts of the Council and that we may finally have the pleasure of seeing this much required want supplied.

DESPITE his expressed desire that his jubilee celebration should be unostentatious, Cardinal Gibbons has been the object of the most imposing ceremonies and the deepest and sincerest Catholic enthusiasm that this continent has ever witnessed. The festivals at Baltimore, an account of which we give on another page, did credit to the spirit of the people and well-deserved honor to the great prelate whose individuality is forever stamped upon the page of American progress and Catholic greatness.

IN this issue will be found extracts from letters sent from far off Alaska by a missionary nun to her parents. Next week we will give a few more of those extracts from later letters. A few years ago that Boreal region was "out of the world" for us, but the recent explorations, the colonizing movements, and above all, the great international arbitra-

tion in Paris have served to bring Alaska more prominently before the eyes of the world. It is well to know that amongst the icebergs of the north, as amongst the burning sands of the tropics, wherever civilization advances it finds that the standard of the cross is either in its vanguard or has reached the desert shores before itself.

AS MANY of our readers are interested in the relative strength of the armies of France and Germany, we give the following figures regarding them—on a peace footing:—

	France.	Germany.
Superior officers.....	2,291	2,328
Captains.....	7,290	4,680
Lieutenants.....	11,672	12,968
Infantry.....	292,681	308,087
Men.....	2,390	2,152
Companies..	65,888	62,961
Cavalry.....	458	466
Men.....	50,888	44,959
Squadrons..	484	487
Artillery (field).....	11,566	15,682
Men.....	98	124
Batteries..	18,849	11,869
Companies..	121	102
Baggage trains, Men.....	10,833	6,890
Companies..	72	64
Horses.....	126,712	116,456

In time of war the French forces number 3,285,000. The French fleet is second only to that of England.

THERE are still anti-Irish Irishmen in the world. If it be true that a real Irishman is the finest type of a gentleman, there is no doubt but these un-Irish Irishmen are the best specimens of the opposite. There is a sample of this latter class in the Rev. Dr. Kane, to whom we alluded some weeks ago in an editorial note. The Liverpool Times gives the following account of that anti-Home Ruler's last feat:—

"As a rule, Irishmen are distinguished for their courtesy towards the gentler sex, and if there is any member of that sex who has deserved kindness at their hands it is Lady Aberdeen. For years she has devoted herself with energy and patience, worthy of the admiration of all who value such qualities, to the promotion of industries whereby many Irish men and women have been enabled to earn an honorable livelihood and the welfare of the country has been materially benefited. For these unselfish and fruitful efforts the Irish race are, as they should be, deeply grateful. But there are exceptions to every general rule. Lady Aberdeen had the evil fortune to invite the co-operation of the Rev. Dr. Kane in her good works. The response was as rude and ungracious an epistle as we have ever read. Dr. Kane not only repudiated Lady Aberdeen's labors on behalf of Ireland, but falsely accused her of making them subservient to political ends. When she refuted this charge in a letter as conspicuous for courtesy as Dr. Kane's was the reverse, instead of tendering a manly apology, he wrote another communication in as vile taste as the previous one. Dr. Kane is a leader of the Orangemen, and in acting as he has done he may have been following the canons of the Order. But if such was the case, and if there be any sense of self-respect amongst the Orange body, these canons will speedily be revised, for of a certainty they are neither Irish nor Christian."

Every association of men requires for its maintenance the spiritual principle of self-renouncing love, and requires if the more solid and intense its life becomes.