

GRAND PILGRIMAGE

Of St. Patrick's



TO STE. ANNE DE BEAUPRE

Per Steamer "Three Rivers"

Saturday Afternoon, June 17, 1893,

At Five O'Clock.

TICKETS:

Adults \$2.00; Children \$1.00.
Staterooms Extra.

For further particulars, address: Rev. Jas. Callaghan, St. Patrick's, Montreal, P. Q.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION.

One of the Grandest Events of the Year, in Which all the Congregation Took Part in One Way or Another.

Thursday last was a red-letter day for the children and the parents of the children of St. Patrick's parish. The church was most beautifully decorated, the Episcopal throne was richly draped, and the bright ornaments—in accordance with the feast of the week—lent a most attractive appearance to altar and sanctuary. The preparations for the occasion were under the direction of Rev. Father Martin Callaghan, S.S., and needless to say that everything was most charming. The First Communion Mass, in the morning, was a solemn and edifying service. The pupils of St. Patrick's School went through their programme of hymns with all the charms of art, taste and piety. The white-veiled girls and the neatly dressed and badge-decorated boys presented a picture that would delight the angels, while it certainly was a consolation to the parents.

Bright and happy as was the scene, at the First Communion, the Confirmation ceremonies were surpassingly grand. His Grace, Archbishop Fabre officiated, and was surrounded by all the attractiveness of pontifical ceremonial. Two hundred and twelve children received the Holy Ghost, in the Sacrament of Confirmation; and thirty-six convert adults—the half of whom are married people—were likewise confirmed in the Faith they had adopted. Dr. W. H. Hingston and Mrs. Hingston, acted as sponsors. The Church was thronged, and the members of the vast congregation were most attentive to every detail of the imposing, interesting and edifying ceremony. One of the attractive features of the occasion was the floral crowning of the Blessed Virgin. This was a simple, yet a sublime scene. It was delightful to gaze at the immense number of the newly confirmed, waving the floral tributes that were to be placed around the statue of the Mother of God. It would forcibly recall pictures that we see, and tales that we read of those Ages of Faith, when each one came with an offering to the Holy Virgin and bestowed her shrine with the choicest products of garden and field.

Another interesting and highly attractive feature was that of the congregational singing. Wonderful the progress that has been made in this branch of devotion since its institution, a little over a year ago, in St. Patrick's parish. Amongst the soloists, Miss Mary Drumm, one of Montreal's most promising musicians, greatly distinguished herself. We might here remark that Miss Drumm deserves no end of credit for the abilities that she possesses and for the disinterested and generous manner in which she is ever ready to utilize them for the benefit of the church, in the cause of the poor and the deserving of all classes. She has been the instrument of countless boons that have fallen to the lot of our homes of education, our refuges for the needy, our shrines of devotion. Miss Drumm most certainly deserves the hearty thanks of St. Patrick's congregation and a mead of praise that is her undoubted due. Master Willie Kennedy and his sister also distinguished them-

selves on that occasion. Master Willie has a sweet, pleasing and yet powerful voice, and he sings with an ease and feeling rarely found in one so young.

On Sunday last all the children who had made their first Communion and had been confirmed, received, from Father Martin, the scapular of Mount Carmel, and each solemnly signed the total abstinence pledge until the age of twenty one years. This was a termination well worthy of the beautiful commencement of the series of blessings that came to these young souls during the past week. Long may they continue to wear unspotted the white robes of first Communion innocence, and to persevere in the holy pledge that they have taken before the altar.

AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY.

A Public Excommunication.

The following extraordinary account of an ordinary event appeared in the New York Irish American:—

The unusual event of a public excommunication took place in Kemptville, Ont., on May 7. The subjects of this severe sentence were Richard McGovern and Mary Barkley, and the history of their case is briefly this:—

It appears that McGovern went some time ago to California, where he married a Catholic woman in a Catholic church. About two years ago he returned to his native parish in Kemptville, bringing his wife with him. Here he purchased a farm, stocked the land and furnished his home. Himself and his wife did not agree, and she vigorously insisted on not residence in Canada. The result was that he took her in his buggy to Prescott, purchased a railway ticket to San Francisco, saw her into a railway car, delivered to her the ticket and bade her good-bye. Soon afterwards he crossed over to Ogdensburg, and instituted a suit in the divorce court of New York State for the severance of the marriage bond between him and her. His claim was listened to by the court, the wife not appearing against him, and probably knowing nothing of those proceedings, and finally he obtained the bill of divorce, on which he had centered his hopes of future happiness. Returning to Kemptville, he struck up an agreement with a woman named Mary Barkley, in virtue of which they both proceeded to Ogdensburg, and there went through the form of a civil marriage with each other in presence of a squire.

Their cohabitation soon became publicly known, and all Christians consciences received a shock. The pastor, the Rev. Michael McDonald, duly reported the matter to the Archbishop of Kingston, who instantly summoned the man and the woman to meet him on a certain day in the church at Prescott, to answer the complaint made against them. They both appeared, but neither of them was willing to abandon the way of wickedness. Accordingly the Archbishop delivered to them his admonitions, accompanied by the threat of excommunication should they not formally and effectively terminated their cohabitation before a certain day. This proved unavailing, and Archbishop Cleary issued his communication a second time and third time, and had them published to the congregation in Kemptville from the altar on successive Sundays. The end of all came on May 7th, when a crowded congregation, including Protestants as well as Catholics, gathered from all the surroundings parishes, delivered in most solemn and heart-stirring form the dread sentence that cuts off the guilty from the communion of Christians.

The Archbishop, after having restated the case of the guilty, and the laws of Christian marriage as promulgated by Christ and His Apostles, and maintained by the Catholic Church, alluded thus to the divorce:—

"You have both added enormously to the measure of your guilt by seeking to cloak your adultery through the agency of the divorce court, because you thereby appear to acknowledge that there is in such court, and in the State or civil government that established such court, a power superior to the law of Jesus Christ, and capable of superseding His sovereign decrees as ruler of the world. As Catholics, you know full well that no human government, nor all the governments on this earth, nor all the parliaments and senates and courts and judges, were they all assembled together, could validly issue any decree or bill of

divorce severing the bond of marriage between Richard McGovern and his lawful wife. The Omnipotent Son of God cannot be dethroned from His place of authority as the supreme Law-giver and Ruler of men; and consequently no human law can annul His law. 'Heaven and earth shall pass away,' said He, 'but my words shall not pass away;' and again He said: 'Not an iota or tittle shall pass away from the law until all things be consummated.' Wherefore your bill of divorce does not supply a cloak for your adultery, but aggravates its guilt by your criminal acknowledgment of the power of human courts and human judges to override and make void the unalterable laws of the God of Heaven in His government of the human family."

He then promulgated the excommunication, as follows:—

"The Holy Church of God cannot stand by and silently witness this abomination in the midst of our Catholic people. You are moral lepers, and it is the duty of the Bishops of the Church to save the people from the contagion of this leprosy. Therefore you must be cast out, and you must not be allowed to hold intercourse with the people of God.

"Accordingly I, James Vincent Cleary, Archbishop of Kingston, having thrice admonished you of the awful gravity of your crime and warned you that, if you be contumacious, I would proceed to inflict upon you the censure of excommunication, do now, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of His Holy Catholic Church, and by my own ordinary authority, cut off you both, and each of you, from the communion of Christians, from participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the sacraments of grace, and from all benefits of the prayers and suffrages and satisfactions of the Catholic Church; and hereby exclude you, in the event of your death, from Christian burial and from the Church's prayers and suffrages, by which she pleads to God for mercy upon departed souls. You no longer are members of the mystic Body of Christ. You are no longer counted in the community of Saints. Neither the Church on earth, nor the Church in heaven will henceforth remember you in their pleadings before the Throne of God, except in so far as to pray for your return to the fold of Christ. You are outcasts from the eternal inheritance of the children of God, and to adopt the words of the Apostle Paul, in the excommunication of the impure Corinthian man, you are hereby delivered over to Satan for the destruction of your flesh, that your spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"May He in His infinite mercy give you the grace of a true conversion before you descend into the bottomless pit of the fire of hell."

As the Archbishop concluded the sentence of excommunication, the great bell of the church tower rang out its quick and vigorous sound of promulgation to the world outside, whilst the bells in the sanctuary re-echoed the Church's voice in the ears of the congregation as they listened in awful stillness and reverential fear. Meanwhile the Archbishop shut the open missal and ordered it to be removed. Then, taking the candle on the right hand from the socket, he dashed it on the floor and extinguished its light, trampling it under foot and repeated the same form in trampling and extinguishing the light of the second candle—thus symbolically signifying that the excommunicated pair were bereft of the spirit of wisdom and light and grace and cast forth into exterior darkness. Forthwith the Archbishop, preceded by the acolytes and priests, passed through the centre of the church, blessing the congregation as he moved along, while the immense mass of people, Catholic and Protestant, who had assembled from all the surrounding parishes, were evidently, most impressed with the awe-inspiring scene they had just witnessed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Sailors' Institute

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS.

SIR,—I observe with great pleasure and satisfaction the new departure of the Catholic Truth Society in favor of our Catholic sailors, supported by our devoted Catholic ladies; I notice that a place of meeting has been secured—and beg respectfully to make a few suggestions, which I very humbly conceive might contribute to the success of this most praiseworthy work.

As the place of meeting should be as pleasant and attractive as possible, I

would suggest as a permanent location for our Institute a place facing the river, so that our brave sailors might at all times have a full view of our majestic St. Lawrence, scenery and shipping, when chatting, smoking, reading, etc. I should like to see the place as near as possible to Bonsecours Church, under even its very shade, it being besides the very central point of the port, and I might add under the very arms of our ever Blessed Lady, the *Stella Maris* of our sailor friends. A chaplain might be appointed to look after the religious welfare of our navigators. Mass might be said for them at the Bonsecours Church, where, moreover, a sodality of Our Lady might be formed under the appropriate title of *Stella Maris*.

Will the fair friends of the sailors allow me to make a request: Will they be so good as to extend to their French speaking lady friends the invitation to join them in their meritorious work, for I thoroughly believe in the old French saying: *Ce que la femme veut, Dieu veut?*

I would also suggest the appointment as patrons of the Institute the Catholic principal officers of customs, harbor commissioners, canal officials, and our leading merchants, both French and English speaking, for besides foreign and British sailors, we have quite a number of native French speaking navigators.

Trusting my remarks will not be inopportune, I wish all success and prosperity to our rising institute.

J. A. J.

Church Notes.

Archbishop Fabre held the following Confirmation services during the past week. On Sunday, 2 p.m., at St. Ann's Church, Montreal; Monday, 29th, St. Laurent Convent; at 11 o'clock, Notre Dame College, Cote des Neiges. Pastoral visits—Monday, 29th, Varennes; Tuesday 30th, Boucherville; Wednesday, 31st, Longueuil; Thursday, 1st June, Laprairie; Friday, 2nd June, St. Constant. The following appointments have been made by the Archbishop:

Abbe Eugene Ecrement, cure of Ste. Cunegonde; L. M. A. Barcelau, vicar at Varennes; Abbe Jos. Robillard, vicar at St. Bridget's; Abbe Cardin, vicar at L'Anoraie; Abbe A. Magnan, vicar at St. Jerome.

Thursday next will be the feast of Corpus Christi. This year it will not be a public holiday, but Catholics are obliged to observe it by hearing mass.



Clifford Blackman

A Boston Boy's Eyesight Saved—Perhaps His Life

By Hood's Sarsaparilla—Blood Poisoned by Canker.

Read the following from a grateful mother: "My little boy had Scarlet Fever when 4 years old, and it left him very weak and with blood poisoned with canker. His eyes became so inflamed that his sufferings were intense, and for seven weeks he

Could Not Open His Eyes.

I took him twice during that time to the Eye and Ear Infirmary on Charles street, but their remedies failed to do him the faintest shadow of good. I commenced giving him Hood's Sarsaparilla and it soon cured him. I have never doubted that it saved his sight, even if not his very life. You may use this testimonial in any way you choose. I am always ready to sound the praise of

Hood's Sarsaparilla

because of the wonderful good it did my son." ABBIE F. BLACKMAN, 2888 Washington St., Boston, Mass. Get HOOD'S.

HOOD'S PILLS are hand made, and are perfect in composition, proportion and appearance.