

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

AT ST. MARY'S.—St. Mary's parish is having its Forty Hours. Long before the hour appointed for Vespers on Sunday evening, the large Church was filled even the vestibules and the aisles being crowded. Very Rev. J. J. McCann, V.G., sank Vespers, assisted by Rev. Father Kelly and Rev. Father Williams. The main altar and Sanctuary were beautifully decorated, and the entire Church was lighted by numerous electric bulbs of white light. Rev. Doctor Teefy, Superior of St. Michael's College, preached an eloquent and soul-stirring sermon on the Blessed Sacrament. The singing, under the direction of Mr. Douville, with Mr. F. Fulton at the organ, was exceptionally fine, the voices of the young boys in particular showing the results of the training they are receiving, being in many parts like the musical voices of girls, and noticeably correct and pure in tone throughout the entire Vespers. The devotion closed at St. Mary's on Wednesday morning.

WILL OF FATHER BERGIN.—The will of the late Rev. Wm. Bergin has been entered for probate. The estate is valued at \$9,298, of which \$8000 was insurance. The property goes to brothers and sisters, subject to a bequest of \$500 to St. Vincent de Paul Society, \$500 to the House of Providence, and \$500 to the housekeeper. The library goes to Rev. Doctor Treacy and certain vestments to two Churches in Tipperary, Ireland.

DEATH OF MRS. E. McGOVERN.—On Sunday of last week occurred the death of Mrs. Eleanor McGovern, of Dundas, sister of Mr. Justice McMahon and Dr. James McMahon of Toronto. The deceased lady was over eighty years of age and had lived in Dundas during the greater part of her life. She had been ailing for some time, but retained possession of her faculties to a remarkable degree. R.I.P.

FORTY HOURS.—The Forty Hours have been already held at St. Michael's, St. Paul's, the Sacred Heart Church and the House of Providence. They are now going on at St. Mary's and are to commence on Friday, the 11th, at the Church of St. Francis. A week from the Sunday following they will begin at St. Helen's.

MIGHT HAVE BEEN SERIOUS.—During the electric storm last week the Parliament Buildings had a very narrow escape from being utterly destroyed. The apparatus connected with the telegraphic system was struck by lightning, and in a few minutes the front hall, in which the machinery is installed, was in a blaze. The vigilance of the night watchman, who gave the alarm, and set the local appliances in motion, together with the city firemen, who soon arrived on the scene, succeeded after some time in extinguishing the flames. Men are actively engaged in repairing the injury done.

MONDAY'S STORM.—As a general thing the weather is not worthy of remark, but the storm of Monday, the last day of February, was something phenomenal. It was the most perfect blizzard ever witnessed by the present residents of Toronto. The city was altogether demoralized. For a time the men on the street cars stuck bravely to their work, but at last they too had to succumb, and belated pedestrians in many instances experienced something of the exhaustion occasioned by travelling in a snow storm. February's farewell shot was an extraordinary ending—it is to be hoped—to an altogether extraordinary winter.

NO PLACE FOR THE INSANE.—The death of Margaret Wright, an old woman eighty years of age, which occurred last week in the Toronto jail, adds one more to the many sad instances which emphasize the crying need at present existing for more accommodation for those mentally afflicted. In a rider to their verdict, the jury urged the necessity for finding other accommodation for the

insane in the jail at the present time. The subject, during the past five years at least, has been brought before the public by different bodies, and yet there seems no remedy. Despite the publicity given, there are doubtless many who are not aware that for those without money or influence there is no refuge for them other than the jail, should they become mentally deranged. The injustice of this is apparent and acknowledged by all. Yet nothing is being done. Mental sickness is not a crime, and yet the environments of the criminal is imposed upon the one afflicted with a disordered mentality. And not this alone, but the friends of the one afflicted are subjected to the humiliation of going to the jail and there visiting the sick one, who forms one of the mixed congregation of sick and criminal who are lodged there. About three years ago a young Catholic girl died under those circumstances; physical disorders had led to the derangement of an already delicate constitution. Her only crime was her poverty; had she had money another refuge would have been found for her. The priest who visited her protested against the surroundings in which he found the girl; in the end she died alone and it was some time before her friends were notified. This and similar instances rouse the community at intervals. The blame is said to lie with the different counties which are generally too parsimonious to provide a home for the few who may come under their jurisdiction, and so shirk the matter by foisting them on the jails. The late instance is only one more call for immediate action.

THE OLD STORY.—A journal exclusively devoted to Catholic news will probably furnish you with the desired information, which is out of my province.

The above quotation is an answer given by "Kit" of the Mail and Empire, to one of her correspondents, who is probably a Catholic, and who is thus directed by an outsider as to the sources from which he may obtain information pertaining to things Catholic. This of course is more or less conjecture; the enquirer may have been a non-Catholic. Yet the probability is largely in favor of the first theory, sufficiently so at least to suggest the question "Why is the Catholic newspaper so little read?" To those who support and appreciate one or more Catholic papers or magazines, the question may seem uncalled for; they may think all Catholics are as they; but to one on the watch for figures in this regard the number of supporters are amazingly few. It is surprising, too, to note the tone of patronage with which the Catholic press is spoken of in many instances. Do you take such and such a paper? one asks. O yes, we take it; but we never read it; it is such a dry old thing, nothing in it but sermons. The answer, of course, is purely conjectural; the one answering has probably never handled the paper long enough to ascertain its contents. There are people too in every large city, well-to-do people, who are mean enough to go on week after week, and year after year, borrowing a Catholic newspaper; yet these people consider themselves honorable, and would be much offended if their action in this regard were catalogued as it deserves to be, as the essence of meanness. Others there are who pride themselves on their culture and on their knowledge of their religion, yet no Catholic paper enters their household. The Catholic home in which no Catholic paper enters is like the non-sectarian school; the atmosphere is chilly and the germs of religion find little encouragement. The secular papers provide the daily pabulum; nothing read during the week prepares for Sunday, consequently Mass is attended and the sermon listened to in a frame of mind so non-receptive as to be little productive of the good intended. On the other hand those who value and read a good up-to-date Catholic weekly, get to look upon it as a most welcome visitor; it is a friend and teacher whose influence is incalculable and can never be sufficiently estimated.

A MEMORIAL.

A memorial to the victims of the Iroquois theatre fire in Chicago is to be built. It is proposed to erect a hospital on the site of the burned theatre.

CATHOLIC EMIGRATING SOCIETY.

The members of the recently organized "Old Boys and Girls Association," will hold a meeting at the rooms of the Catholic Emigrating

Association to-morrow evening, when another step will be taken in the practical work of the new organization.

Mr. Cecil Arden, honorary secretary of the Catholic Emigrating Society, will leave on the 20th instant for a trip to England. The "True Witness" wishes Mr. Arden a pleasant voyage.

St. Ann's Young Men Will Stage an Irish Drama On St. Patrick's Day.

On St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, St. Ann's Young Men's Society, at matinee and evening performance, will present "An Irish Rival" The play is fresh from the pen of Mr. J. Martin, the member-dramatist of the Society, being a revival of the play produced years ago under the title of "O'Rourke's Triumph."

It may be remembered by some of the old patrons of the Society that the plot of the play is one of absorbing interest, telling a tale at once sympathetic, simple, beautiful and true in every other detail to the characteristics of the good old Celtic race.

It may be frankly stated that the play loses nothing in the retouch it has been given by the author, Mr. Martin.

The production is in the hands of a cast with both ability and resolve to do it justice, and this confidence is emboldened by the presence of Mr. Ed. Varney, who, it may be said, has cradled the dramatic talent of St. Ann's Young Men's Society, and made it what it is.

Prof. P. J. Shea has a number of new songs, choruses and Irish reels arranged and nicely adapted to the production.

The stage, its properties and all the lighting apparatus are undergoing new and modern changes necessary to the staging of "The Irish Rival."

The orchestra chairs will be made stationary, numbered in theatre fashion, and reserved.

The plan of St. Ann's Hall will be on view every day at T. O'Connell's (Cor. Murray and Ottawa streets.)

JOURNALISM, RULING POWER.

(From the Catholic Forum.)

Writes Bishop Spalding: "I should be willing to continue to live, if for nothing else that I might keep hoping that the people will at last choose as their governors and lawmakers, wise, brave, just and enlightened men, wholly incapable of preferring private gain to public welfare. Would they not long since have risen to this virtue had not ignorance and sensuality been fostered in them by those who have held authority?"

Only too truly is the admission made that our men of power have fostered ignorance and sensuality in the people for the sake of private gain, the which they have amassed at the sacrifice of public welfare. The passions have been fattened, until to-day our people are as slaves, powerless to throw off this domination of personified vice and selfishness. We do not elect wise, brave, just and enlightened men to office when we place there those who buy our precious, inalienable right of suffrage with filthy lucre, or, worse still, win a nomination by other methods. We do not elect wise, brave, just and enlightened men to office when we place there those who have accumulated wealth and gained notoriety by catering to man's lust for things of the flesh.

They may be very popular with certain classes—they may be powers in the world of finance—but such men must not be given the upper hand of our government. What can be— who regards not the sanctity of

home, the purity of individual life, the preservation of morals.— know of national honor or integrity? The public mind is, to-day, all too familiar with the lower side of life—what has made it so? Largely such yellow journalism which has painted lurid pen pictures of crimes unmentionable and unnumbered, and most graphically described the sensational happenings of police courts. The minutest details of these crimes are given with zeal worthy of a far better cause, and their most passionate phases "featured" in many papers of to-day. Whatever applies the enkindling spark to the passions is given precedence—and for what? To increase the sale of one-cent news sheets most of which mix an ounce of fact with tons of fiction—for this, the souls of men, redeemed by a most priceless sacrifice, are gladly thrown into the fiery furnace of temptation. Is such traffic worthy of our support?—are such editors the proper directors of public thought and action? True, there are other agencies potent in this evil influence—as cheap, immoral "shows"—but these own much of their destroying strength to the undue prominence and heralding given them by the press.

Journalism is the great power of the present, will be the paramount ruler of the future, but journalism must rise above this groveling mire. It must assume the throne of honor, and, sitting in dignity upon a chair of justice, teach, as it alone can lessons of virtue, recognizing that public virtue is but a manifestation of individual virtue, and that for a nation's honor, the honorable living of the individual is responsible. It must create a noble public by instilling ennobling principles into individual minds; it must right wrongs and denounce evil wherever manifest. It must, when crimes are committed, remember that its readers are not all of calm, impassible, and unswervably-principled minds, and, regarding the young and those of wavering virtue, it must pass over, in silence, sensualities, emphasize the baseness of the act, and call attention to the punishment sure, swift and severe which it evokes. Here, indeed, is a fit ruler for our people—the ruler of the future. Here is a lifework for any man, perfectly in harmony with the Divine intention that each should labor for his own and his neighbor's betterment.

A Patriotic Irishman Gone to His Reward.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

On Tuesday evening, Feb. 23, William O'Neil, of Buckingham, Que., passed away to his reward. He was born in the County Clare, Ireland, near by Cratloe Castle, on July 16th 1826.

Mr. O'Neil was the second eldest of a family of twelve children, of which there were six brothers and six sisters. His father, Mr. John O'Neil, was descended from the O'Neils of Ulster, who so valiantly contended with the armies of Elizabeth and Cromwell for the sovereignty of Ireland. Mr. O'Neil's mother's name was Susan O'Shaughnessy, whose brother came into considerable prominence in Australian political life in the middle of the last century. With the blood of the O'Neils and O'Shaughnessy's coursing through his veins, one could scarcely look for anything short of an Irish patriot in the person of the deceased gentleman, and certainly this expectation was realized.

Few indeed of the exiled children of Inisfall in these parts have taken such a life-long interest in the affairs of the Old Land. Every great movement that seemed in any way designed to help towards the political emancipation of Ireland, had the hearty and practical support of the late Mr. O'Neil. In days when it was not so popular with the masses of our people as it is now, to advocate the cause of Ireland, he pleaded with eloquence and perseverance, and gave his financial support to the cause.

At the age of thirty, Mr. O'Neil left his native land to seek fortune in Australia. Melbourne, in Victoria; Sydney, in New South Wales, and New Zealand were the principal scenes of his labors there, and, at the end of six years, he returned to Ireland. The same year he crossed the Atlantic to Canada, and here settled down in Buckingham, Co. Ottawa, Que. He opened a general store and met with well-merited success. His reputation was that of a man of the strictest honesty with both his patrons and the wholesale houses where his purchases were made. Nothing in these long years since 1861 to the

Young Irishmen's L. & B. Association
ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT,
Thursday, March 17th, 1904.
MONUMENT NATIONAL, ST. LAWRENCE ST.
 Grand Production of **DIOR BODICHAULT'S** Romantic Irish Drama,
ARRAH-NA-POGUE
 (ARRAH OF THE KISS),
 IN THREE ACTS, BY THE DRAMATIC SECTION.
Prices—Reserved Seats, 75c. General admission 50c & 25c. Boxes, \$4.00 \$5.00 and \$6.00.
 Further particulars to be had from Special Programme, which will be issued March 13. Reserved Seats on sale at MULCAIR BROS., 1942 Notre Dame street. TELEPHONE MAIN 2645.

SHAMROCK LACROSSE CLUB.

MONTREAL, 10th March, 1904,
 The Annual Meeting of the above Club will be held on Monday, March 14th, 1904, at 8.15 p.m., at the Young Irishmen's L. & B. Association Hall, O'Connell street.

BUSINESS:—Reception of Annual Reports and Election of Officers.
 Members are requested to pay their annual fees to be qualified to take part in proceedings.

W. J. MCGEE,
 Hon. Sec.

NOTES FROM TINGWICK

(By our Own Correspondent.)

Tingwick, Que., March 8.
 The solemnity of the feast of St. Patrick was celebrated here Sunday. The high altar was tastefully decorated, and the statue of St. Patrick was ablaze with lights, and flowers tastefully arranged. Our pastor, Rev. Father Jutras, in a few well chosen words, referred to the feast of the day, and the many virtues of this great Saint, especially his obedience in answering the Divine call to the Irish nation. In like manner he advised us to respond to the call of Divine grace, especially during the holy season of Lent, and thus follow our Patron Saint. The choir rendered music appropriate for the feast. As St. Patrick is the patron of our parish, both the French and Irish Catholics vie with one another to render the celebration of this festival as solemn as possible.

At High Mass on Sunday, Rev. Father Jutras read a mandement from Mgr. Bruneault, the first one issued since his elevation to the See.

A very flourishing branch of the League of the Sacred Heart has been established here. The membership is over six hundred, with forty promoters. Many thanks are due to our director, Rev. Father Jutras, who is delighted with the success and the result, and also to our President, Mrs. F. V. Lessard, who is a zealous promoter and indefatigable in her efforts to promote the love of the Sacred Heart.

Two solemn Requiem Masses were celebrated this week, one on Tuesday for the repose of the soul of Willie Johnston; another for Emile Bourque.

Last Friday being the first Friday of the month of March, a number of our promoters and members of the Society of the Apostleship of Prayer received Holy Communion.

Father Jutras was absent Wednesday to assist at the funeral services of Rev. Father Matte, of Plessisville, who died Saturday at St. Joseph's Hospital, Levis. On Thursday he attended the Forty Hours' devotion at St. Nobert, returning home Friday.

SMALLER HATS.

An American journal says: Whether owing to the press campaign or a desire for novelty, quite a revolution has taken place in hats. Many smart women are wearing a small, close-fitting bonnet or beghin, made of jet and having a simple aigrette on one side of the front, or a large Alsatian bow of velvet, with an aigrette.

NOTES FROM GRANBY

(From our Own Correspondent.)

Grandby, March 7th, 1904—A very successful mission, preached by the Oblate Fathers, closed last evening. The basement of our new Church, although very large, was taxed to its utmost. The choir rendered some very fine selections, the solo by Mr. James Moriarty being much appreciated.

The contract for the building of the new Catholic Church has been let to Messrs. Saurotte & Martineau, contractors, for the sum of fifty thousand dollars, and our energetic pastor, Rev. Father Gill, is looking forward to an early completion of the structure.

Our trains, which have been running so irregularly for the past few days owing to the bad condition of the roads from snow and ice, are to-day running on time.

The Sacri

Bishop Lacey, of Michigan, in his Lenten Pastoral, says: "Of all the signs of the times, none is more alarming than the prevalence of divorce. In the largely prevailing respect, of Christian marriage, which they do amidst a prevailing prevalence, Catholics are the danger of assimilation. The danger of assimilation is not a new error which permeates their daily breathe. Now we know some of the common vices outside the Catholic Church. Marriage is not merely natural contract, as a very ordinary necessity. Not infrequently as a not very serious matter is looked upon more as an arrangement to last just suits the convenience of one or other of the parties, the civil law recognizes contract, but does it not divorce? And does it the remarriage, if such called, of divorced parties. At best marriage is not as a Sacrament, though religious sanction be at ceremony. If we seek these confused ideals at the date of the wedded state found in the action of Reformers, who denied the character of marriage to the principle unions. Next came the voice, the profane parent of countless homes abroad sin and misery, differentiates the Church of marriage from that of the world is this, that marriage is the New Law, a great sacrament," said, "but I speak in the Church" (Eph. v.).

Our Lord and Lawgiver of His power rests primitive unity, and with view He sanctified the tract by raising it to total order. Hence it is of the Catholic Church baptised persons the nature of marriage becomes sacrament of the Law moreover, there can be no contract between man and woman is not at the same time in its character. Thus Lawgiver attached His nuptial union, sanctified it, placing it in its permanent order, and its perpetual sign of union with His Spouse. This He did in order to city in its very source human love with heaven for a divine purpose.

This sacred rite is sacraments of the living, to term it, that is, it is a its worthy reception to be in a state of grace, and free from all sin. Due preparation therefore made by every Catholic the name for its fruitfulness is the Church's wish the circumstances permit that should be sanctioned Mass, at which the penitentially confessed, and Holy Communion. This way enter on their in the fear of God, and right intention, receive measure the graces of it, and along with the Church they ensure for the unfailing protection, which shield, will cover them brief day of their earth. It is indeed painful to the reverse of this would to God it were forced upon our notice.

What a lamentable sight Catholic young man and young woman, children parents, sanctified in the baptism and carefully in the Catholic faith, themselves as to think themselves for marriage the altar of God, or but before the civil re

CATHOLIC CHARITY

Providence Row St. Sptalsfelds, was the son of London's Lord Mayo