

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY

The True Witness Printing & Publishing Co.
(LIMITED)

252 St. James Street, Montreal, Canada.
P. O. Box 1138.

MS. and all other communications intended for publication or notice, should be addressed to the Editor, and all business and other communications to the Managing Director, True Witness P. & P. Co., Ltd., P. O. Box 1138.

The Subscription price of THE TRUE WITNESS or City, Great Britain, Ireland and France, is \$1.50.

Belgium, Italy, Germany and Australia, \$2.00. Canada, United States and Newfoundland, \$1.00. Terms payable in advance.

New subscriptions can commence at any time during the year.

Money for renewal and new subscriptions should be sent to Managing Director, P. O. Box 1138.

You may remit by bank cheque, post office money order, express money order or by registered letter. Silver sent through the mail is liable to wear a hole through the envelope and be lost.

We are not responsible for money lost through the mail.

Discontinuance.—Remember that the publishers must be notified by letter when a subscriber wishes his paper stopped. All arrears must be paid.

Returning your paper will not enable us to discontinue it, as we cannot find your name on our books unless your post office address is given.

The date opposite your name on the margin of your paper shows you up to what time your subscription is paid.

We recognize the friends of THE TRUE WITNESS by the prompt manner in which they pay their subscriptions.

Always give the name of the post office to which your paper is sent. Your name cannot be found on our books unless this is done.

When you wish your address changed, write us a line, giving your old address as well as your new one.

If you fail to receive your paper regularly, notify us at once by letter or postal.

All communications for publication must be written on one side of the sheet only, otherwise they are liable to rejection.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1896

THE TEACHERS' RESPONSIBILITY.

We have heard so much of theories of education, and so many comparisons between system and system, that it is a treat to come upon something practical in which there is a lesson for the individual teacher and pupil. Certainly the discussions which have occupied so large a place in the press and on the platform have not been utterly fruitless. They have set people thinking and observing. The testimony of a Protestant judge, which we quoted not long since, is a very fair example of the result on the minds of many thinking men of the pleas, for religious instruction in schools, that have been either expressed or implied in the Manitoba controversy. And it is an example which, we are sure, could be multiplied by the experience of hundreds of communities all over the Dominion. Long ago, before the privileges of education were so widely diffused, it was a usual thing to attribute the wrong-doing of the young mainly to ignorance through lack of schooling. By many good people it was taken for granted that the mastery of the three R's would prove a sort of charm against evil courses. There was, it is true, a certain apparent ground for such a conclusion, in the fact that in these years, when education was the privilege of the few, it was from the poorer classes, where children were of necessity to a great extent left to their own resources, that the records of crime were supplied. Even then there was a considerable proportion of school-trained criminals in the cells of our prisons. To-day the proportion has increased to a figure which makes it sufficiently clear that mere knowledge will save no soul from the broad way that leads to destruction. The sooner this truth is generally acknowledged by Protestant parents, teachers, legislators, aldermen, commissioners, all who are, directly or indirectly, associated with the control of public instruction, the better will it be for public morality and the salvation of boys and young men from the abyss of mental degradation.

But the necessity of religious teaching being admitted, the whole problem of the relations between the master or mistress and the pupil is not solved. The mere routine of religious instruction is not enough. The nobler minds of even the heathen world, the moralists of Greece and Rome, and the wise men of the Eastern nations, had ages ago discovered this great truth, that the truly successful teacher is he who teaches not only by precept but by example. This feature of his work the earnest teacher never allows himself to forget or disregard. He feels that when he inculcates religious precepts the eyes of his hearers are upon him, eagerly comparing his habitual conduct with the lofty truths and divine commands of which his lips are the channel. If we needed any excuse for introducing such a subject into the columns of THE TRUE WITNESS, we might find it (sic parva componere magna) in the July number of the North American Review. Therein we read an article, from the pen of His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, on "The Teacher's Duty to the Pupil," in which literature, ancient and modern, secular and sacred, is appealed to for evidence of

the importance of the subject. Naturally, that illustrious churchman writes primarily on behalf of the rising generation in his own country. There, as His Eminence reminds us, the teachers are numbered by tens of thousands; the pupils by millions. But what he says is as applicable to Canada as to the United States. Whatever the system in vogue, whether the task of preparing the young for the work of life be entrusted to religious orders or to lay teachers trained in Normal Schools; whatever repute such orders or training schools may have gained for the excellence of their theories and methods, not only the success of any single school or class as a whole, but also the character and destiny of every pupil attending it, is due in a very real sense to the capacity, sincerity and loyalty to conscience of the individual teachers. Cardinal Gibbons enforces this truth by instances drawn from Plutarch, Horace, Quintilian, St. John Chrysostom, St. Anselm, Mor-seigneur Dupanloup, and other writers of ancient, mediæval and modern times. "What is more noble," says the golden-mouthed orator of the Byzantine pulpit, "than to form the minds of youth? He who fashions the morals of children performs a task, in my judgment, more sublime than that of any painter or sculptor." The Roman Satirist, Juvenal, condensed the teacher's duty to his pupil into a memorable sentence. "To the boy," he wrote, "the greatest reverence is due." And in this line there is a principle that should never be lost sight of, not only by the professed teacher, but by every adult—for to the open eyes and ears of the young we are all teachers, whether we are conscious of it or not, and the random word may be the seed of consequences virtually endless. But, if it is the duty of every thinking man and woman to be constantly on guard lest the tender mind of youth should be injured—perhaps irretrievably—it is, in a peculiar sense, the duty of the teacher to frame his conduct and control his tongue that only what is fair and true and good may be impressed on the waxen tablets of his pupils' memory. There is a point in connection with this subject which it may not be out of place to mention. The qualifications, ability and behaviour of individual teachers are often—sometimes unjustly—made the occasion for attacking the system whose methods they represent or the Order of which they are members. Where prejudice is on the watch for pretexts to assail what it dislikes, the shortcomings of individuals are sure to be taken advantage of for the infliction of blows which a sympathetic public may consider well deserved. Thus the apathy, carelessness or indiscretion of a few individuals, whose condition or conduct may be entirely exceptional, may bring disrepute, altogether unmerited, on the order or system with which they are connected, and their defection is sure to be remembered by the ill-disposed or unreflecting while the creditable work of highly meritorious teachers are doomed to oblivion. There could be no more painful test than this of the responsibility to conscience, to the community and to his pupils, of the individual teacher.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

Our educational establishments have brought their long labors to a close, and teachers and pupils are now enjoying a well merited vacation. It is pleasing to be able truthfully to say that our schools, high and elementary, as well as our colleges, have given evidence of steady progress and improvements. Of late years, beyond doubt, a great deal of time has been devoted to athletic sports, and many institutions are at least as well known by the prowess of their athletic teams as by the curriculum of their studies. Nothing is better calculated to develop manly men than a rational amount of good physical exercise. Well contested games on the college campus develop the body, and the mind is benefited thereby in no small degree and *mens sana in corpore sano* is thereby secured. Of all the physical exercises indulged in by our schools we unhesitatingly place military drill in the first rank. It has all the advantages physically of every other sort of exercises and many others besides. The boys who drill at school beneath the Canadian flag will go into the world patriotic Canadians, and are, in a great measure, prepared to do the duty of citizens in our great and growing country, not only in the peaceful avocations to which they are most likely to be called, but should trouble arise, which God forbid, in the active defense of our Canadian homes. We cannot commend too highly institutions like our Mount St. Louis Institute, where our boys are well taught in all that pertains to scholarship, and where great attention is paid to the development of military drill. Speaking of the advantages of this system of cadet training a popular magazine says: First, as to physical benefits, it makes boys erect, active and alert, a free graceful carriage of the body, the proper position of the arms and shoulders and the use of limbs, in motion and repose, are among things which it thoroughly teaches. It is not intended that the

drill should take the place of athletic sports. It will be an excellent preparation for other forms of exercise. Instead of slouching carriage, awkward gait and careless appearance, the drill inculcates neatness in person and clothing, a firm step and a straight, graceful figure. The slow and heedless are taught quickness of eye and ear, head and foot, and in after life will be brighter and stronger for the hours spent in their company's ranks. What is more important are the mental and moral lessons, directly and indirectly given in the course of military instructions. The boys are taught to be brave, honorable, manly; they must be obedient, courteous and respectful; they must be helpful to their comrades, and above all else be truthful and patriotic."

THE OLYMPIC GAMES.

No Pindar has yet arisen to celebrate in enthusiastic odes the victors in the revived Olympic Games. Mr. G. S. Robertson, one of the prize winners, has, however, written for the *Fortnightly* a fairly full account of the gathering and of the chief competitions. Although the crowd at every day's meeting was enormous, and at the close of the Marathon race and the presentation of the prizes every available inch of space was occupied, the number of foreigners did not exceed a thousand. Twice the vast arena was filled with sixty thousand eager watchers. The peaked hill on one side of this area had its slopes and top covered with twenty thousand and more, while as many more pressed each other on the level road before the entrance. The surrounding scene was one of singular beauty, every spot and object in which abounded in associations with an eventful past. On one side the spectator saw the temple of Olympian Jove and the museum hill; on the other Marathon and Lycabettus, while behind rose honeyed Hymettus and beyond it Pentelicus, smiling upon its marble off-spring. For M. Averoff, a Greek of Alexandria, had volunteered to restore the Stadium in Pentelicus marble. The task will be completed by the next Olympiad, but even now in all essentials it stands as it stood in the 3rd century of our era. Mr. Robertson is not so enraptured when he describes the arrangements of the international committee. The two nations that most excel in athletic sports, and without whose fair representation at the games they were sure to prove more or less a failure, no efforts were made to attract. The original programme and book of rules were printed in French. Later a German edition was issued, and not until shortly before the time fixed for the games did a private firm bring out an English version. This neglect of the two especially athletic nations indicates either extraordinary ignorance or prejudice. It was not until March that an attempt was made to enlist the interest of the Oxford and Cambridge University clubs—organizations most likely to take part in the meeting. Mr. Robertson thinks this explanation necessary to show why there was not a better representation of English athletes. A fully equipped team of American athletes—the greater part of which was furnished by the Boston Athletic Club, there being also some excellent athletes from Princeton, visited Athens. But their presence there was due to American enterprise and not to the efforts of the committee. The bulk of the competitors was Greek and continental.

The French competitors entered chiefly for bicycling and fencing, in which last sport they excel. The Germans (all except three) confined themselves to gymnastics. Of the three, one named Schumann, a small elderly man, took a hand in nearly everything. His best victory was for wrestling. Mr. Robertson is not satisfied with the plan of putting all branches of athletics on a par, the exercises with the vaulting horse being awarded prizes equal to the hurdle and 1500 metres race. He suggests that at next meeting several of the gymnastic and other events—some of which he considers puerile—should be combined and a prize awarded for an aggregate of marks. The Germans, however, were splendid in their squad exercises in the horizontal and parallel bars. In the former they won without contest—opposition being clearly hopeless; yet the Greek public cried out that it was unfair, thus showing their ignorance and forgetting their accustomed good manners. The Hungarians, like the Americans, sent an all-round team, who made themselves very conspicuous, but achieved little. They joined the Philharmonic Society of Coreyra in placing a wreath before the statue of M. Averoff, on the Sunday before the games. One of the six English athletes was an Australian named Flack, who carried off the 800 and 1500 metres races with a tapers difficulty. Mr. Goulding, of Gloucester, Mr. Robertson pronounces a better hurdler than the American who beat him. The race was run upon cinders, to which he was not accustomed, and he lost two yards by a mistake at the start. He was beaten by a foot. The inference to be drawn is obvious. Mr. Elliott, another English athlete, won the single-handed weight, lifting

without trouble, but Mr. Jensen, a Danish expert, got the better of him in the double-handed lift. A Greek won in the bicycle race from Marathon, but Mr. Robertson says that the prize would have gone to an English competitor, a servant at the Embassy, had he not collided with a fellow servant. The American team had a run of success uninterrupted by a single defeat. Mr. Garrett, of Princeton, won the Disc and the weights; Mr. Burke, of Boston, the 100 and 400 metres race; Mr. Clark, of Harvard, the high and long jumps; Mr. Hoyt, of Harvard, the pole-jumps; Mr. Curtis, of Boston, the hurdles; and Mr. Conolly, of Suffolk, the triple jump. One of the team entered for swimming, but failed. Striking skill in revolver shooting was displayed by two Americans, the brothers Paine. They won two events with scores of 442 in each as against scores of 205 and 285 by a Greek and a Dane. A Swiss was victor in the vaulting horse with pommels; an Austrian, in the 500 metres swimming race. An Italian, who had walked from Milan, in order to train himself, was disqualified. Thus the nation that comprises Magna Grecia and the land of Theocritus was unrepresented.

The Greeks did fairly well in consideration of the fact that they were not athletic until a couple of years ago, the only features that they practised before being throwing the discus or quoit, a primitive hop, step and jump and a little lawn tennis.

To-day athletes practice at every street corner. They are not, however, of athletic build. Their most glorious victory was that of the Marathon race—an event regarded as the chief feature of the meeting. Its historical interest was supreme and, the distance being 25 miles, it was the greatest test of physical endurance. Both first and second prizes were won by Greeks, but Mr. Robertson denies the statement that "well-trained English and American athletes had been defeated by Greeks without training." The truth was that the Greeks had practised for months, while the competing Englishman had arrived in Athens only ten, the American only five days before the race. The Englishman ran in splendid form until within six kilometers from home, when he broke down, the American having given up a little sooner.

None of the athletic performances reached a very high standard, the jumping being the most satisfactory. Mr. Clark, of Harvard, did splendidly in both high and long jumps—in the former clearing 5 feet 11 inches, six inches more than his opponents; in the latter 20 feet 9 inches. There were faults in the organization—which was only to be expected from what has already been said of the international committee. But these were minor blemishes, and they were mainly due to lack of understanding between the committee just mentioned and the Greek organizing committee. Throughout, the Greek organizers dealt with foreign athletes in a most sportsmanlike way—though in some cases, one especially—the right course was not pursued. With these exceptions, however, the organization of the athletics was wonderful, and that of the meeting generally nearly perfect. The crowd, save in the instance mentioned behaved admirably, taking disappointments good humoredly, and altogether, but for the grave mistake at the outset of neglecting to seek the concurrence of British and American athletes, the Olympic Games, as renewed in 1896, were a delightful success.

LEO XIII has again shown his love for Italy. This time in his appeal to King Menelik on behalf of the Italian soldiers who recently fell prisoners to the Abyssinian monarch. The action of His Holiness has awakened all Italy to a sense of gratitude towards the Vatican, besides subjecting the Italian Government to deep humiliation. The Italian newspapers, through force of public sentiment, have been compelled to commend the action of the supreme pontiff, while yet acknowledging the negligence of the Government. The latter, who only became aware of the Pope's action through the public press, have expressed themselves in the highest terms towards their saintly benefactor. The result of the communication will be anxiously awaited; not only throughout Italy, but in every quarter of the globe. This thoughtful action on the part of the imprisoned ruler is a lesson to his bitterest enemies. Let us hope that his appeal may be favorably heard. Things change quickly in our days, and perhaps the time may not be distant when the Holy Father may be in a position to forward his communications to foreign Governments, not as the prisoner of the Vatican, but as the restored monarch of the papal states, which his illustrious predecessor was wrongfully despoiled of.

THE *Moniteur de Commerce* announces that the Court of Appeals in Manitoba has declared the Municipal By-Law, enacting the early closing of shops ultra vires, as being an undue interference with commerce. Our contemporary states that it has not taken long for the Manitoba courts to decide this question.

ENGLAND AND IRELAND.

Altogether apart from the special end which the coalition had in view, the union of Irish Nationalists and English Liberals under Mr. Gladstone's lead in 1886, gave satisfaction to many thoughtful and well disposed persons of both nationalities for the promise of peace that it implied. Never before had there been such an alliance. Down to the historic moment when Mr. Gladstone announced his conversion to the doctrine of Home Rule for Ireland, the Nationalists had been equally at war with both parties. Nor was the warfare an ordinary political conflict. Not only did the bitter memories, called up at almost every debate on any phase of the Irish platform, provoke taunts and retorts uncourteous, but there was in the demeanor of the Irish leader an uncompromising hauteur that repelled all attempts at intimacy. Whether this unbending attitude was assumed for strategic purposes or was in part due to antipathies that had been inherited with his Stewart blood, the result was to create a corresponding sentiment of stolid hostility in the ranks of both the English sections. The Tories, for whom impetuous Celts like Dr. Tanner cherished as lively an animosity as though they were for igneous, answered back scorn with scorn. To the Liberals they were perhaps less hostile, save when some unhappy minister, like Mr. Forster, made himself exceptionally obnoxious and became a scapegoat to bear the sins of his party. It seems remarkable that, even in Radical Scotland and valiant little Wales, no strong-minded advocate of justice to Ireland should have made her voice heard, until Mr. Gladstone spoke the magic word. The fact stands for something more than party discipline. Surely during the sixteen years of battle and hoping against hope, under Butt and Shaw and Parnell, there must have been some Gaelic or Cymric kinsman who sympathized with the Irish cause and anticipated in *petto* the conviction elicited by his allegiance to Mr. Gladstone. Or must we believe that all those Liberals who shared defeat with Mr. Gladstone had for the first time looked the Irish question boldly in the face? At any rate from that moment the Irish had friends in the larger island. When Mr. Gladstone took his seat after the elections, he was the Opposition leader of 194 Liberals pledged, like himself and Mr. Parnell's following of 84, to Home Rule. It took seven years to return a Home Rule majority, but that such a triumph was achieved and may be read on the pages of British history, is, we maintain, a remarkable fact.

It would be strange if ten years of Anglo-Irish alliance for a common cause (although the Tory peers stood between that cause and final victory, should not have mitigated the old hatred and distrust between the two nations. It was virtually impossible that a decade of political co-operation, in which former foe shared the same successes, the same defeats, the same aspirations, the same apprehensions, could have gone by without to a large extent healing the old wounds, mutually inflicted, that once seemed past curing. Nationalists and Liberals could hardly have cultivated the close relations that such political comradeship implied without in some measure lessening the prejudices that had so long barred the way to mutual confidence and good will between England and Ireland. To what are these prejudices due? The student of history will answer that they grew up in seven centuries from seeds planted by the adventurers who held Henry II.'s commission. Such an answer might direct a novice to the sources where he could learn something of the relations between the two countries, but it casts little light on the feud between the Celt of Ireland and the Saxon of England. As for the conquest, it was achieved not by Saxons but by Normans and Welshmen. Ruder kinsmen of these Normans had already made themselves masters of Irish cities and lands. One of the most enthusiastic Irishmen of the new literary revival—Dr. Sigerson—is descended from these fierce Norse invaders. All those freebooters became Irish in a few generations—some of them more Irish than the Irish, as it was said. The Saxon plantation was a much later development, and it too largely coalesced with the Irish. The *genius loci* in Ireland has always been a powerful influence, and even in modern times has overcome marked English antipathies. Indeed, it may be said that the long-standing feud between Celt and Saxon, so far as it is not political, is largely due to ignorance of each other's qualities. When decent Englishmen and decent Irishmen come to know each other, they generally agree fairly well and sometimes become close friends.

Mr. Gladstone's conversion to Home Rule gave England's greatest living statesman an opportunity of confessing England's long reign of tyranny and injustice and her determination, so far as he was her spokesman and representative, to make atonement for past wrongs. In the political sphere nothing could be more desirable. The good example, moreover, found unconscious as well as avowed imitators, and the very tone of

speaking of Ireland and things Irish underwent a change. It may be truly said that among educated and enlightened Englishmen the old misunderstanding exists no longer. Whatever dregs of race hatred or creed bigotry remain are not peculiar to England, but survive in English-speaking communities the world over—in Melbourne, in Boeten, in Toronto. Until the world itself has undergone conversion, there will always be a few bigots to serve as examples of what Christian men ought not to be. But, though the presence and influence of such people are to be deplored, as ever likely, when the chance offers, to re-awaken the nightmare memories of the past and to seek approval for the damnable spirit of race and religious faction, true Irishmen can despise them when they remember that England, through her foremost statesman, has made the *amende honorable*. It is by that fact—by the deeds and words of her best men—that Ireland ought to judge the England of to-day—a guarantee and forecast of that brighter England of tomorrow when, under auspices worthy of his fame, Mr. Gladstone's work will have its triumphant completion. Then, when repentance has its due sequel in reparation, the day of misunderstanding will end and the new era begin.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

ABOUT 40,000 persons are now on strike in St. Petersburg. They want a reduction of the working day from fourteen hours to twelve, and extra pay.

THE annual retreat of the Christian Brothers opened on Saturday last, at the Mount St. Louis Institute. It will continue until the 18th inst. The members of the Order from every part of the Province are attending it.

THE eastward position, says an exchange, is now adopted in nearly 6,000 churches, an increase of nearly 1,000 since 1894, and 3,560 use altar lights, more than three times as many as ten years ago, and an increase of nearly 1,000 in two years. In 1,632 churches the chasuble is used, against 509 in 1886, and 307 churches in the Church of England use incense.

THE *Daily Witness*, in an article entitled "Party Spoils," says that "the idea of turning out civil servants of former governments has never been acknowledged as a principle in Canada, and has never, in spite of great political temptation, gained general ground in practice." And it closes with the following words: "There should be no dismissing to find places for needy Liberals." We cordially endorse these sentiments. There is, however, little risk of any Government attempting to dismiss any efficient permanent officer in the service, because it would arouse a storm of indignation, which is just the thing our latter-day politicians are anxious to avoid.

A WINNIPEG despatch to the *Mail and Empire* says: There is more truth than fiction in the report that Premier Greenway made overtures to Archbishop Langevin prior to his departure for Rome. Your correspondent was informed of a Roman Catholic, well known to be in close touch with the hierarchy, that nothing short of separate schools is now acceptable to the minority of Manitoba, and the tone in which he expressed himself left no doubt that Catholics feel they are at last in the ascendancy. In other words, he gave me to understand they meant to hold Mr. Laurier fast by his pledge to demand the full pound of flesh in return for the wholesale delivering over of Catholic Quebec.

TO SELECT DELEGATES.

THE IRISH NATIONAL SOCIETIES TO MEET ON MONDAY, TO NAME REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND THE GREAT CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN DUBLIN.

ON Monday evening next a meeting of the Irish National organizations of this city will be held at the Hall of St. Patrick's Society, for the purpose of selecting delegates to the National Convention, to take place in Dublin on the 1st of September next. Toronto has already chosen its representatives, four or five in number, and Montreal ought not to be behind the big city of the West. Our Societies will no doubt do their work in an efficient manner.

DEATH OF REV. E. A. MCGURK, S.J.

Rev. Edward A. McGurk, S.J., of Worcester, president of Holy Cross College in 1894 and '95, died suddenly at Theresa villa, Priest's Cove, Fairhaven, on Friday afternoon, having been stricken with apoplexy. With about 40 other priests, Fr. McGurk was spending a retreat at Priest's Cove.

Dr. Charles W. White, Jr., of Fairhaven, was summoned, but his skill was unavailing, and Fr. McGurk passed away about two hours after he was stricken. Arrangements were made to take the body to Worcester.

Fr. McGurk was a man of scholarly attainments. He had an easy, dignified and genial presence which charmed every one with whom he came in contact. He was 54 years of age.

Great Britain has eighty miles of tunnels.