

Our Curbstone Observer On the Circus

HE circus has come and has gone. It came with eighty-five cars and the finest menagerie that ever paraded the streets of Montreal. It went away with the same number of cars, the same menagerie, and about sixty thousand dollars, at a rough estimate. No person begrudges the Ringling Brothers all the money they can get, for they need it all. Their expenses are enormous. Thousands of dollars daily must be spent in the maintaining of such a huge concern. Then there is much to say in their favor. Not only was it the most complete show, of the class, ever seen here, but it was remarkable for the cleanliness of everything in connection with it, and for the gentlemanly and lady-like manners of those taking part in its performances. Even the teamsters, tent-erectors, and ordinary laborers were remarkable for their civil and respectful manners. It may not be generally known that the five brothers conduct this immense travelling establishment on very strict principles. The employees are treated in the most approved manner; they are lodged and boarded as they would be in a first-class hotel; they have even menu cards at each meal. No profanity, no immorality, and no disreputable conduct of any kind will be tolerated. One offence suffices; dismissal follows. By dint of a wonderful discipline these managers have made it possible for really good actors and actresses to engage with them. All this being the truth, I feel it only just that I should make mention of it. No one can suspect that it is for any special purpose, since the circus is hundreds of miles away now. But when I come to speak of my own observations in connection with its passage through Montreal, I would not have it thought that I was unfair enough to blame the circus for having made such a fine harvest. In fact, each and all of them earned well every dollar they got, and the people got the worth of their money.

THE FOLLY OF IT.—But, now that the circus is gone, there are many things that remain, and many others that are to come. There are still houses that people must inhabit, and for which rent must be paid; there are still bakers, butchers, grocers, and others whose goods are necessary to sustain life, and whose bills must be met; there are still children to be clothed and fed; there are still necessary obligations that must be fulfilled. Then there is coal that has to be bought, and no one yet knows at what price; and wood in a like manner. The circus will not come back this year, but December will come, and with it snow, frost, ice and all the inconveniences of a long winter. There are preparations that must be made to meet all these things; and the circus will not help in the making of such preparations. And thus it is that I see the folly, or the pity of it all. It is not necessary to go into details; all know the situations, and any who do not suspected will later on have occasion to find it out for themselves.

ONE CASE FOR EXAMPLE.—Not later than a couple of weeks ago a woman came to me and asked for assistance. She told me a most pitiful story, and told it in a convincing way. She was frank about it; did not cringe and whine, nor yet was bold and offensive. In fact, I could see that the woman was truly in need. Her husband was too ill to do the work to which he had been accustomed, and was forced to take up an occupation that afforded him only three dollars per week. They had four of a family: the youngest three, the oldest twelve. She gave me her address. I learned, from other sources that she was perfectly honest in all her representations. The lack of work for her husband, the terrible price of fuel last winter, and the necessity of trying to have two of the children kept at school, at least to be prepared for a First Communion—all combined with other circumstances to make her lot a hard one. The result was that I did a little, for I could not afford much; but I induced a couple of friends to do a little more to help this family tide over the difficulties that faced them. Very well. On last Monday week the same woman, with two of her children, accompanied by a couple of her neighbors, had a grand old time. They went to the circus. I doubt not that they had a pleasant afternoon of it, and that they

enjoyed the show. It cost a couple of dollars, or may be more. To the average citizen it was worth that much. But what will she do when the autumn comes, when the circumstances of last winter return? Will the circus come along and afford her the help that she so badly needed a few weeks ago, and that she is very likely to need as badly in a few weeks hence? Money could be found to go to the circus, but none to be had to keep the fire in the home hearth burning.

IMPROVIDENCE.—Few of the readers have an idea of the extent to which improvidence is practised in the world by the needy. It is said of the Indian that he is satisfied as long as he has enough for the day, and that he will allow the morrow to take care of itself. This is characteristic of his race; and for good reasons. The Indian lives free in the woods, or on the plains, and depends upon game and fish for his food; he knows where they are to be had in plenty; as long as health lasts he has the skill to supply himself. Were he to secure more food than is absolutely necessary, it would simply be so much loss, it would go to waste, and would diminish to a certain extent the general supply. Then he is a stranger to hoarding. He has no ambition to accumulate wealth; he would have no use for it once dead. The result is that he does not bother himself with the future. But it should be otherwise with civilized people. No matter how humble the man's, or the woman's, station there is always room for the savings that come in so well on "the rainy day." Each one looks forward to an old age of repose, to a few years of tranquillity, of rest from life's labors, before the coming on of the great rest. It is, therefore, natural for man to be provident to a certain degree. This does not mean that he is to submit himself to unnecessary privations in order to store up for a time that may never come for him. But, on the other hand, it is the height of folly—under existing conditions—for any one to so act that the future becomes no concern and that chances are lost that may not return again. And this sad fault is more remarkable in the poorer classes. They are so easily carried away by the excitement of the moment. A feast, a great holiday, a circus, or anything that will afford them a temporary oblivion of their troubles, is hailed with delight. They scrape up enough to have one good time in all the year, and during those few hours—like the opium eater—they forget the realities of life; and, like that same victim, they awaken from visions of delight, to the cold, chill, crushing, death-dealing reality.

CONCLUSIONS.—From all of these observations my conclusions must be obvious. I am not going to preach a sermon, nor seek to make others see the follies that are clear to me, as I walk life's curbstones. But I am lamenting the tendency of people to be improvident under fairly favorable circumstances. But, probably all my observations are for nothing; I do not expect that they will tend to check the evil of which I complain, nor do I suppose that they will prevent the same people from going to the circus next year, or from squandering what they can earn, or beg, on excursions, or picnics; nor will they drive away the wolf from their doors in the winter time.

Notes From Australia

MODERN CONCERTS.—A Catholic Irishman, in a letter to an Australian Catholic organ deals with the subject of "Modern Concerts." It would seem that the Catholic Young Men's Society, of Perth, in Australia, had advertised a musical evening's entertainment. On the previous St. Patrick's night the same society had given a concert to which the correspondent takes exception, and on account of which he asks that the coming entertainment may not be a repetition of that fiasco. As to the details of the affair, and to the local allusions, we know nothing; but there are some general hints in the letter, which go to show that the "Stage Irishman" has invaded Australia, and that he is equally resented there. In the letter we find this striking passage:—

"As Irishmen we may be impetuous, enthusiastic, and, if you will, sentimental; still we have an undying love for what is noble and decorous. As a religious body Catholic is, or ought to be, our name and surname. Allied closely to Catholic is our second individualising mark, viz., Irishmen."

We have again a striking instance in this letter of how an honest Irish heart resents any disrespect, or even discourtesy, in regard to the priesthood. It is all very well to be civil

to strangers, and to pay them marked attention, but not at the expense and to the discomfort of our own clergy. They would never treat their ministers so, for the sake of us; nor do they expect that we should do so in the case of our clergymen. The passage is this:—

"It may have been the custom to extend our maudlin civility to the stranger and perhaps the foe of our religion, to the great detriment of our spiritual guides and Fathers in Christ; but the creed of custom is not always that of right. We should, therefore, make it our duty, our aim and endeavor, to attack the entrenched customs of custom or fashion wherever they are incompatible with the duty and respect we owe our priests. We could be accommodating without offence, and we could be inattentive without incivility. Why do I speak thus? Because I saw from the gallery of the Town Hall on the night in question, the priests thrust about looking as best they could for seats while the chairs that should be theirs were reserved for others, who no matter what they may be, absolutely speaking, hold no place in our esteem, compared with that which the priests should obtain."

He closes thus:—

"Let us hope that the coming Catholic concert will not be a facsimile of such an exhibition, but rather will show that the efforts of the Catholic Choir far surpass the Gaelic League's ideas of discretion and musical attainments, and will manifest a knowledge of the stage, a refined taste in amusements and an aptitude for the occasion, that instead of inspiring rage and disgust in the audience, will fill them with pleasure and admiration."

What were exactly the errors committed on that occasion we do not know; but it is clear that discourtesy was shown to the clergy in the audience; the susceptibilities of the invited guests were shocked; and the Irish character was caricatured. This may all have been due to lack of organization, of tact, of forethought, or of taste, yet it remains, all the same, as a blot that should be removed, if we desire that our self-respect be maintained.

We are sure that the writer of that letter in Canada he would find more than one occasion to give expression to the same sentiments and opinions. But happily the change is coming, and already its benefits are becoming felt. May the improvement continue.

Live Stock Trade.

The trade in cattle, according to a London despatch in the "Gazette," was fair, but as supplies were more than ample there was no improvement in prices. Choice American cattle sold at 11½c, Canadians at 11½c, and Argentinians at 10½c. The tone of the market for sheep was stronger, and prices since this day two weeks show an advance of 1c per lb., best Argentinians selling at 13½c.

There was no change in the Liverpool market for Canadian cattle since this last week, sales being made at 11c to 11½c.

A private cable from London quoted choice American cattle at 11½c, Canadians at 11½c, and Argentinians at 10½c.

The exports of live animals from Ireland in April, included 69,682 head of cattle, 18,378 sheep, and 47,574 pigs. Compared with those of the corresponding month of last year these totals show an increase of 4,276 head of cattle, but decreases of 5,412 sheep and 8,800 pigs. Taking the totals for the first four months of 1903 and comparing them with the corresponding totals of 1902, we get increases of 68,560 cattle, 13,933 sheep, and 1,426 pigs, as set forth in the subjoined table:—

Live stock shipments from Ireland into Great Britain, four months, January to April:—

	1903.	1902.	Inc. In No.
Cattle	266,392	197,832	68,560
Sheep	91,526	77,593	13,933
Pigs	259,697	258,271	1,426

MONTREAL.—There has been no important feature to note in local export live stock circles, except that the present month has opened up with large shipments, and if all the vessels that are to sail carry full cargoes, it promises to be another record breaker. The demand for export cattle in the Toronto market has fallen off again and trade in that market has been comparatively quiet owing to the fact that prices for export cattle in the Chicago market have declined again; therefore, shippers have been buying American cattle in large quantities cheaper than they could buy Canadians. Foreign advices have been anything but encouraging, the markets having been generally weak of late and with the large supplies going forward from

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Canada little improvement is anticipated, and even with the embargo on Argentine stock, which was generally looked upon as a bullish factor, prices in the leading foreign markets have declined over 1c per lb., and at to-day's figures it was stated by some in the trade that shippers were losing from \$10 to \$12 per head. The demand for ocean freight space, in spite of the above facts, has been good and all the space for June is practically engaged at 40s to 45s per head, as to port.

At the Montreal Stock Yards at Point St. Charles the receipts of live stock on Monday morning for local consumption were 150 cattle, 15 sheep and lambs, 10 calves, and 110 hogs. The trade in all lines was generally quiet, owing to the small offerings, and in consequence of which the undertone to the market was steady, and prices show no material change. The few loads of cattle offered were of good quality, and as local dealers were somewhat short of supplies, holders had no difficulty in making sales at prices ranging from 4c to 5c per lb. in ear load lots. Sheep and lambs were scarce and prices were maintained. Sheep sold at 3½c to 4c per lb., and lambs at \$3 to \$4.50 each. The few calves on the market sold at from \$1 to \$5 each. The tone of the market for live hogs was in sympathy with recent advices from the West, but as the supply was exceedingly small, there was little change in prices to note, sales being made at 6c to 6½c per lb.

The offerings of live stock at the East End Abattoir market the same day were 800 cattle, 200 sheep, 200 lambs, and 700 calves. The demand for cattle was good, and as the quality of the same was generally up to the mark, the tone was steady and prices show little change from last Wednesday. Choice heaves sold at 5½c to 5½c; good at 4½c to 5c; fair at 3½c to 4½c; and lower grades at 3c to 3½c per lb. The trade in sheep and lambs was fairly active. Sheep sold at 3½c to 4c per lb., and lambs at \$2.50 to \$5 each. The demand for calves was good at prices ranging from \$1 to \$7 each.

The shipments of live stock from the port of Montreal for the week ending June 6th, were:—

	Cattle.	Sheep.
To Liverpool—		
Tritonia	863	485
Lake Champlain	590	
Pretorian	389	
To London—		
Birmingham	250	162
Hurona	563	
Livonian	769	276
Yola	298	46
Kildona	293	
To Glasgow—		
Pomeranian	614	
To Newcastle—		
Bellona	338	
Total	4,907	969
Last week	8,735	1,574

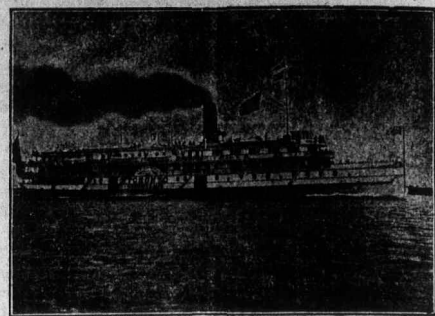
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Crepes de Chine, in colors of black, blue, pink, gray and brown. Former price \$1.00 a yard. For per yard.....25c

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We have reduced a line of Children's Embroidered Bonnets, different patterns. Were \$3.00. For.....\$2.00

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Ladies' Pattern Hats, that were \$25.00, \$30 and \$35. Now.....Half Price

300 YARDS
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Umbre Shaded Chiffon, only 60 yards in the lot, 27 inches wide. Was \$1 25 a yard. For, per yard.....90c

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60 x 76 inches, \$1.10.....For .75
64 x 80 inches, \$1.25.....For .95
70 x 92 inches, \$1.75.....For .95
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Sizes 17 x 17 inches, 75c. For 48c a doz
Sizes 22 x 22 inches, \$1.90. For.....\$1.50

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Notes From Scotland

WOODEN CATHOLICS.
got a few Catholics in of besides Glasgow who do above title. On May 22, Branch of the new Sac Confraternity was established Alphonse's, Glasgow. After ary, Father O'Reilly, add congregation, said that d Mission only 118 names o had expressed a wish to j dality had been received. Father O'Reilly said: 118 Imagine! only 118 out of parish of St. Alphonse, to return love for love to Heart. Where are all the of the parish? That was able feature of the present Catholic people who did n identify themselves with gious association.

They were Catholics he would call them by proper name, "Wooden olices," who were fish, flesh, nor fowl-m did not listen to the of the Sacred Heart.

The Son of God had sa give Me thy heart." Tha appeal, and if only 118 n respond to that appeal, to the rest. They might ther minds that few, ver of the 118 had preserved fruits of the mission. He that day who had not ke week did not elapse after when some of those v ed the Sacred Body of Ch to drink. They drank, an give him if he should say e damned in their sins. death in the parish on Su of a man who had been o whole week. He had been Mission, but had not give name to join the Sacred ciety. The lesson to take was that that man was n He came as a thief to rals, stole our Lord, and from his heart the next glass of whisky. Did it re to the men of the parish only 118 gave in their n to Holy Communion once our Lord said to them t He said 2,000 years ago, Me your heart." When w heart to any person we all the affect on and the heart is capable of. And Son of God, who loves everlasting love, who des love Him, wants our he turn. When there is love ily, troubles may come, spring up, but love is p sickness is borne with r difficulties regarded as not erty may be there, but lo also to fill up the void c absence of these things. I ner when we love God, w give us in return? He sa love Me My Father will so that the love of God indwelling of the Son of hearts and homes, 118 th? Son of God in their others, I presume, want I am sorry for the selectio God is with us whom ne And our Divine Lord say that is not with Him is a Therefore I congratulate men on their choice. They on God's side, and may C them, and I hope and tru fulness of God's grace w their hearts and that the a hundredfold the sacrific making. St. James says good and perfect gift com Father of Light." What you when you have God your hearts? No tongue blessings that He will b danger He will repel, the Him He will love you in ask you then to join in reparation for the cold men of St. Alphonse's, 118 of them came to jo ciation. Father O'Reilly the act of reparation, wards solemnized Benedi

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Notice is hereby given that a dividend of eight dollars and a bonus of two dollars per share of the capital stock of this institution have been declared, and the same will be payable at its banking house in this city on and after Thursday, the 2nd day of July, 1903.

The transfer books will be closed from the 15th to the 30th of June, both days inclusive.

By order of the Board.

A. P. LESPERANCE, Manager.

Montreal, May 30th, 1903.

OPEN-AIR INSTRUCTION Sunday evening open-air to non-Catholics by the Power, S.J., have proved success in Edinburgh. At road on Sunday night