



REV. ELIAS YOUNAN, C.S.P.

Rev. Elias Younan was born in Calcutta, India, of purely Syrian parents. His father a native of the ancient Ninevah, spoke the language of our Lord, the Syro-Caldaic or Aramaic, and the family claim to have received the faith handed down to them from the very Apostles. Father Younan was educated in Calcutta. He took the highest honors in literature and science and exchanged the bar for the pulpit. Ordained in Calcutta in 1879, he spent 18 years of his life as a missionary among the Pagans. He joined the Paulists in February, 1893, and has ever since given missions all over the States to Catholics and non-Catholics. He is the first Catholic priest who was privileged to preach for a week in the tabernacle of the assembly hall of the Mormons in Salt Lake City, Utah, last June. He is to begin a very important non-Catholic

mission in St. Patrick's, Montreal. Lectures to non-Catholics by the Rev. Father Younan, a native of India, and a member of the Paulist Fathers of New York, in St. Patrick's Church Montreal, will open Sunday, the 7th of January, and close on Sunday, the 14th of January, 1900. The subjects to be treated are of vital importance, and concern our happiness here, our eternal destiny hereafter. All are invited to attend regardless of creed or denomination. There will be no controversy, and the services which begin every evening at 7.30 will be conducted in the spirit of charity, the true bond between Catholics and their separated Brethren in Christ Jesus. Catholics are allowed to attend the services only when accompanied by their non-Catholic relatives and friends.

N.B.—Put in the Question-Box any question you wish answered.

benefits received during the course of the present century, and owing to the urgent necessities of the times, that greater favor be implored in order to begin auspiciously the new era.

"Therefore, in order that the approaching year, 1900, may begin happily through the supplication of the assistance of God and His Only Begotten Son, our Redeemer, and that it may end, after a prosperous course, by ushering in a still more happy century, as it is right for us to expect; Our Most Holy Father, Leo XIII., graciously concedes that, with prudent consent of the Ordinary of every place, midnight of the 31st day of December, both of the closing and of the coming year, in all churches and chapels where the Most

Blessed Sacrament is rightfully kept, the same Most August Sacrament may be exposed to adoration; and permission is given to read or to sing at the same hour "Coram Sanctissimo," or Mass of the Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord and the Octave of the Nativity; and permission is given, by special favor, to the faithful to receive Holy Communion either during the Mass or after it; all necessary conditions to be observed.

"All things to the contrary, notwithstanding. 13th day November, 1899.

(Signed) C. Bishop of Montreal, Card. Meuzelle, Prefect.

Sacred Congregation of Rites. D. PANCI, Secretary.

THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

Despatches from Ottawa state that the council sat for four hours on Wednesday finishing up the details with respect to the second contingent, and at 6.30 o'clock Hon. Dr. Borden, minister of Militia gave out the formal announcement that the contingent will consist of three squadrons of mounted rifles, totalling 531 men of all ranks and 536 horses, and three batteries of field artillery, totalling 531 men of all ranks, 393 horses and eighteen 12-pounder breech-loading guns of the most modern type. This makes a grand total of 1,044 men and 929 horses. The mounted rifles will have for its nucleus one and a half squadrons of North-West Mounted Police, ex-police-men and others qualified as horsemen, scouts and good shots. These men will be recruited throughout Manitoba and the North-West at Mounted Police outposts. The remaining one and a half squadrons will be recruited at the regimental headquarters of every cavalry regiment in Canada.

The news comes from London as we go to press that the gravity of the military is again becoming accentuated in the public mind, owing to the complete absence of news. Nothing has been heard from Lord Methuen since Sunday, and it is feared that his communications have been cut off.

The latest despatches received seem to show that the British forces are standing on the defensive at all points. General Buller is ordering the troops now arriving at Cape Town to proceed to Durban to reinforce the Natal column. Absence of news from him has led to the surmise that he is trying to join General White by a flanking movement.

The London Daily News has the following despatch from Cape Town, dated Saturday, December 16:

"The Boers intend to make a big

stand at Stormberg and are massing a great force at the abandoned British camp. One commando of 2,000 consists chiefly of rebel Dutch.

"The Boer position already formidable on December 11, has since been greatly strengthened, extending for an area of twelve miles. It is entrenched according to most modern methods throughout its entire length wire fences have been placed before all the trenches at every point; guns have been got into position and there is every evidence that the Boers are well supplied with ammunition. Only a powerful attacking force can hope to make a successful assault."

Further accounts of the Tugela River battle, according to English correspondents, emphasize the ignorance of the British intelligence department in regard to the disposition of the Boer forces. The British were not aware that the Boers were entrenched along a series of low-lying hills immediately northward of Colenso bridge, until a staggering fire compelled them to retreat, when the attack seemed about to succeed. The Boers also were in greater strength than anticipated. It becomes clearer that the British guns were lost in attempting to get within effective range of the Boer artillery, showing the latter outwitted the British ordnance, which in spite of numerical superiority, was wholly inadequate to reply to the long range Boer guns.

There was no news this morning to enlighten the general situation. The War Office reported that General French reconnoitred northward of Arundel on December 18. After shelling Jansfontein farm, three miles eastward of the Boer position, the New Zealanders advanced and occupied the farm. The Boer guns then opened and the Boers advanced to the attack so General French ordered a retirement.

VEUILLOT'S MONUMENT.

On the 30th November, in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, in Paris, took place the unveiling of a monument to Louis Veullot. This memorial which is the conception of Fagot, an eminent artist of the day, is in accord with the general impression left on the world by the life and works of the great writer. The bust of Veullot is placed between two figures, "Faith" and "Strife." These two are symbols of the author's entire career. His attachment to the Faith, and his gigantic struggles in the interest of the Catholic cause, constitute the two most important characteristics of his life. Behind these figures may be seen the shadowy sketches of St. Peter's of Rome and Notre Dame, of Paris. What a splendid subject for a pen dipped in the electric fluid of religious inspiration.

That Louis Veullot should be so honored in death is not a matter of surprise; but that his death should have taken place sixteen years before any commemoration of his life and works was inaugurated, is a reason to deplore that indifference which causes men to forget in short space even those who engrossed for long years the world's attention. The moment one of the leading freethinkers, free-masons, or free-living litterateurs dies, his praises are sung in every key, his remains are honored with almost idolatrous rites,

his bones are carried to the national Pantheon and there enshrined amongst the "immortals" whose works have been far from calculated to benefit the only "immortal" part of his being. But when it is a question of a man whose pen glittered like a sabre in the haze of conflict, whose armor was that of religion, whose life was one of gigantic struggle in defence of Truth, and of whom it can be most emphatically said, that he "has fought the good fight"; when, we say, it is the case of such a man, were it not for his works which must live despite the indifference of the world, he would soon sink into oblivion. We do not claim that the great editor of "L'Univers" was entirely above criticism, but he certainly stood out as the foremost lay defender of Catholicity during the lengthy period of his life. We do not pretend that he was always perfection in his writings or methods; but decidedly he was an epoch-making character. He deserved an amount of recognition far beyond that which is accorded to the most conspicuous exponents of grand principles. It is, however, a pleasure to know that at last Catholic France has paid a debt due the memory of the foremost Catholic journalist and litterateur. It is also becoming that it should be in the grand Basilica of the Sacred Heart, on the Martyr's Hill, a temple which he loved, even as he was devoted to the Sacred Heart.

BEHIND GRIM WALLS.

Sunday morning at the hour when the average good citizen is about beginning to think of the possibility of rising to dive into the morning paper, a little band of devoted Catholic young men are making their way toward the melancholy fortress, the State Penitentiary, bent on an errand of mercy and comfort to many despairing souls within.

For several years they have been doing this work, and through a long weary story of repulses, disappointments and often with but meagre results as compensation, a long story which cannot be told short because only those who have passed through it can well realize the full force of these things.

Gathered under the leadership of Rev. F. L. Kelly, these gentlemen are Messrs. Charles Ober, Frank Oger, Dennis Buckley, John Brown, and James A. Quinn, all of St. Patrick's parish. Until a short time ago, when business engagements demanded their full time, Messrs. Michael A. Leman and Walter Hamilton, were associated with the others in teaching and conferring with the prisoners at the penitentiary.

In the great mass of criminals gathered here from all parts of the nation and for every conceivable offense, there are perhaps 350 who are of some sort, or should be, Catholics. Of this number about 250 are members of the classes taught by Father Kelly and his assistants, and the

Mass at the regular Sunday morning services.

At 7.45 o'clock each Sunday morning Mass is celebrated in the commodious chapel of the prison and immediately following it the prisoners divide themselves into groups in various parts of the room where they are joined by their instructors, and the lesson for the day begins. Father Kelly has asked for, and is about to receive permission from the proper authority, to have Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the morning immediately following the Mass.

The ordinary work of the instructors is necessarily of a very elementary character, for many of their pupils have become so steeped in crime and have been for so long away from anything connected with the faith that they hardly know how to make the sign of the cross. Such ones are first taught the ordinary prayers and then by slow and tedious degrees they are worked into the catechism and the doctrines of religion are gradually brought back to their long darkened intelligence.

Every chance is given the members of this prison class. While dutiful and faithful, their sincerity of purpose is not questioned. They are treated like men and brothers who are honest in the desire for the uplifting influences of religion.—Catholic Columbian, Columbus, O.

A NEW MASS.

The name of Professor Fowler has long been a household word wherever, in Canada and especially in Montreal, the beauties and charms of church music are appreciated. Apart from his grand reputation as an organist and choir-organizer, Professor Fowler has composed three very fine Masses. During his last vacation time, he devoted himself to the composition of a fourth Mass entitled a "Mass in honor of St. Joseph." This production is said to surpass any previous work by the same composer. On Christmas night the lovers of sacred music will have an opportunity of enjoying and appreciating Professor Fowler's last contribution to the somewhat restricted list of Canadian Masses. It may be mentioned that this new and

masterly production, has been dedicated, with a delicacy indicative of the author's fine sentiments, to Mr. Robert Warren, President of St. Patrick's Choir. Mr. Warren enjoys the distinctive honor of being the only living member of the choir whose connection therewith dates back almost to the building of St. Patrick's Church. For over half a century has this warm-hearted Irish Catholic citizen been prominent actively as a chorister of St. Patrick's. In choosing Mr. Warren as the one to whom this grand Mass would be dedicated, Professor Fowler gave a touching evidence of his kindly sentiments towards and deep interest in the members of St. Patrick's choir. The composition is a credit to the composer, who has doubly honored himself in so dedicating his masterpiece.

INAUGURATION OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH

As announced in a previous issue, the grand inauguration of this sacred edifice with its wealth of new decorations, will take place at Midnight Mass. The church has been in the hands of artist workmen for a period of nearly eight months and the enthusiastic and zealous pastor, Rev. P. F. O'Donnell, is to be congratulated upon the magnificent improvements that have been carried out under his loving care. St. Mary's is quite safe to say, now ranks as one of the prettiest Catholic temples in this Province. In our next issue we will give our readers a more detailed account of the work, which it is said, will cost nearly \$10,000.

The choir has prepared a special programme for the occasion. It is as follows:— Assisted by an efficient orchestra the "Messe de Faneonier," will be given. At the offertory

Wilson's "Adesto Fideles," solo, duet and chorus. Solists, Messrs. Hammell and Emblem. At the Low Mass, Christmas Hymns. The same music will be repeated at Grand Mass on Christmas Day. In the evening at 7.30. Musical Vespers and Benediction. At Benediction—Cor. Jesu-Wilson—"Eunetus" Faneonier, "Sub Tuum" D'Aujou, "Tantum Ergo," Wilson "Laudate," Novello. Soloists:—1st tenors, Messrs. J. A. Hammell, J. Clelland, L. Prevost, W. Kelly, 2nd tenors, J. Emblem, J. Phelan.

Bassos, T.C. and A. Emblem, leader of orchestra, Prof. Wm. Sullivan, Conductor, Mr. J. B. Paquette, Organist and musical director, Prof. J. Wilson.

Visitors may secure reserved seats for the occasion in advance at the presbytery or at the church door on the evening.

RECENT DEATHS.

We regret to have to chronicle the death of Miss Rose Ellen Booth, wife of Mr. Louis G. Derval, (formerly of Duluth), and daughter of Mr. William Booth of this city. The sad event took place at the residence of her brother, Mr. George H. Booth, 97 Shaw Street. Deceased was well known in this city, and highly respected for her many noble qualities, of mind and heart. The funeral which took place Friday morning was largely attended. The remains were brought to St. Mary's Church, where a Solemn Requiem Mass was chanted for the repose of her soul by Rev. Father McDermott. Among the chief mourners were:— Messrs. L.

G. Derval, William Booth, George Booth, J. H. Kennedy and P. Derval.—R.I.P.

Mrs. John Dunn, an estimable and valued member of St. Anthony's parish passed to her reward a few days ago. She was well known in St. Patrick's where she had worshipped for many years.—R.I.P.

Some of the best lessons we ever learn we learn from our mistakes and failures. The error of the past is the wisdom and success of the future.

Temptations are the crises which test the strength of one's character. Whether we stand or fall at these crises depends largely on what we are before the testing comes.

EXTRAORDINARY MIDNIGHT MASSES.

As an evidence of how imperfectly some of the most important non-Catholic journals are acquainted with the practices and teachings of the Church, we might quote from the New York Post, of the 16th. instant. It is well known that in order to sanctify the night of December 31, 1900, the International Committee for the Solemn Homage asked the Holy Father to grant permission for the celebration of midnight Mass in all the churches of the world, and for the faithful the privilege of receiving Holy Communion at that time. The Holy Father not only graciously acceded to the request, but in order that the faithful might at the beginning of the Holy Year greet the author of time, he extended the concession so that the Midnight Mass may be said on the 31st of December, 1899, as well as on Dec. 31, 1900. During this Mass the Blessed Sacrament may be solemnly exposed, with the prudent permission of the Ordinary, and the faithful may receive Holy Communion. This is the most extraordinary permission of the whole reign of Leo XIII., and it shows how intent his wishes are fixed on the celebration of the Holy Year as well as on the International Homage to the Redeemer of mankind.

In this connection we have an aptly edited and generally well-informed journal like the "Post," telling its readers that:

"By special dispensation of the Pope the privilege of celebrating Midnight Mass on Christmas eve has been granted to members of the Roman Catholic Church. This will be a rare event in American dioceses and its passing will be marked by due rites and ceremonies. Ordinarily Mass on Christmas Day is not publicly celebrated before daylight, because of the customary making and festivities which usually take place the night before, but on account of the ap-

proach of the year 1900, the coming Christmas is to form an exception." This must sound funny in Catholic ears. Imagine the century honored office of Midnight Mass, at Christmas, being declared a new departure. Then the amusing reason given for what the writer believes to be the regular rite of the Church. He thinks that merry-makings and festivities of Christmas Eve caused the Church to not allow Mass before daylight-time. We will make no comment on this, "where ignorance is bliss, etc., etc."

However, what will really be of interest to our readers is the "Universal decree" signed by the secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Rites. It reads thus: "It is most becoming that we who are about to celebrate the commencement of the Holy Year, happily proclaimed by our Holy Father, Leo XIII., should, in the depth of night rise to greet the Author of time, and prostrate before His Altars, to offer the most acceptable Victim, who is the Immaculate Lamb, assisting at the Sacred Banquet, so that at this most opportune time we may find the assistance of His Grace and mercy; for our salvation is nearer. Behold now is the acceptable time; behold now is the day of salvation. And, if the Kingdom of Heaven, which is the Church on earth, is likened to ten virgins going forth in the night to meet the Bridegroom, each one of us may, on the occasion of this solemn festivity, consider more attentively these Sacred Words: trim your lamps; for behold the Bridegroom cometh, go ye forth to meet him. "Since, moreover, at midnight of the last day of December of the opening year of the present century will come to an end, and a new one begin. It is very appropriate that thanks be given to God by some pious and solemn ceremony, on the