

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

"If the English-speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they would soon make of the 'True Witness' one of the most prosperous and powerful Catholic papers in this country. I heartily bless those who encourage this excellent work."

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14, 1901.

Notes of the Week.

WITHOUT A PLAN.—"How many men in old age realize that their great mistake was made when they sailed forth on the sea of life without a plan?" This question forms the central point of an article that we find in one of our Catholic contemporaries. It seems to us that there is a great deal of time, space, and words squandered weekly on similar subjects. We thoroughly understand that the writer of the article may have been short of subject matter and felt the necessity of dashing off something or other that would have the semblance of wisdom. Did any one ever know of a human being setting sail on the sea of life with a fixed plan before him? He would be a wonderful youth who could commence that voyage possessed of a complete chart and conversant with every current and wind that he would be likely to encounter on the way. A man, that is to say a young man beginning life, may select a trade or a profession, or any other avocation; but he is no more able to map out his own future than the one who has made no such choice. The selection is merely the choosing of the vessel in which he purposes sailing; but he can never foresee the accidents, the storms, the reverses, the icebergs and shoals that are ahead of him. There is but one chart, one plan, that can be considered as available in general, and the Church of God furnishes that one in the form of true religious education.

A POOR MAN'S CLUB.—District Attorney Philbin thinks that he has a good and practical idea in connection with Sunday entertainment for the laboring classes. He would have a number of small club rooms equipped with books, daily papers, indoor amusements and facilities, under the supervision, for the poor man to have his glass of ale on Sunday. He believes that workingmen would be glad to meet in these clubs and talk over matters of daily interest, free from the temptations of saloons. A very plausible theory; but of what practical benefit? The workingman might possibly be drawn on Sunday to the club, seeing that he ran less risk there than in the saloon, and was equally able to get his glass of ale and meet his cronies. But he would also be drawn away from his home and from the Church; and the danger of winding up his day in the saloon would not be lessened by the fact that he had spent the greater part of it in the club. The intention of the District Attorney may be very good, but we fear that he takes the string by the wrong end.

SCHOOL BOARD TROUBLE.—We glean from various old country reports, and especially from the remarks of Monsignor Harnett at the Nottingham School Board, that one of the great difficulties in connection with the Board Schools in England is that there is no attempt to teach even the central dogmas of Christianity. In order to avoid quarrels and disputes on the subject of religion the teachers are not required to declare any special belief in any doctrine. The moral drawn by the Rev. Monsignor is to the effect that of the people want definite and strong Christianity they must see that the denominational schools are maintained and have fair play. In a word, it is the same story over and over again; the public school, the state school, or whatever else you may choose to call the undenominational school, is purely and simply a godless school. It is against this dread danger that the Church struggles in every land and that Catholics seek to protect their children at any cost.

IN FAR NEW ZEALAND.—According to the New Zealand "Tablet" there seems to be a considerable amount of religious controversy

going on in that country between the Catholic laity and the Protestant section of the population. To judge from the advice given to Catholics to cease quietly allowing themselves "to be made punching-bags for their assailants," it would appear that the more boisterous element amongst non-Catholics is animated with a very undesirable antagonism towards their Catholic fellow-citizens. The following paragraph would indicate the spirit that reigns:—"Happily, the great mass of our non-Catholic fellow-colonists are not fact-proof iron-clads—these are a small, if noisy, minority; and the chief use of controversy with them is (1) to furnish our Catholic laity (and especially those most exposed to annoyance—in shops, factories, public employments, etc.) with a ready answer to assailants; (2) to appeal to that great body of non-Catholics whose minds are fair and open to conviction, and (3) to discourage attack by letting those who are willing to wound understand that they will be held responsible before the public for their words."

DR. SPAHN'S CHAIR.—The appointment, by the German Emperor, of Dr. Spahn to the Chair of History at Strasburg University, is again creating a noise in that land of anti-Catholic prejudices. Dr. Spahn is a Catholic. Dr. Mommsen's protest is based on the theory that such an appointment is an infringement of the principle that in the universities there should be unshackled liberty of teaching. He considers that a Catholic professor cannot honestly utter what he finds in history, but must only teach that which agrees with Catholic dogma. Professor Hertling, of Munich, points out that this is a mere assumption; and he suggests that German Catholics may claim to have their views on history set before Catholic students in the universities just as do Protestants. It is this claim that the Kaiser recognized in appointing Dr. Spahn. It is wonderful how Protestant educationalists—be it in Germany, or Ireland, or elsewhere—seem to consider that the Catholic student must accept their views, while it would be preposterous to imagine the reverse—that is to say, Catholic teachings being set before the Protestant student.

LIPTON'S SHAMROCK.—Sir Thomas Lipton has evidently more than one characteristic of the race; he is not only a thorough sportsman, but also the possessor of a keen Irish wit. In responding to the toast of his health at the banquet tendered him in London on his return from America, he very appropriately and humorously said: "As they were all aware, there was no Shamrock perfect with less than three leaves, and Shamrock III., ought therefore to meet with better luck than Shamrock I., or Shamrock II." One thing, at all events, is certain that Lipton's pluck deserves success, and we really believe that America would not be sorry were he to carry off the cup with Shamrock III.

JUSTIN MCCARTHY.—The veteran Nationalist, author and Parliamentarian, Mr. Justin McCarthy, has just reached his seventy-first birthday. Although he has abandoned forever the political arena, yet he is ever active as a writer, and he still wields a most powerful, effective and ever patriotic pen. Commenting upon his seventy-first anniversary, a contemporary remarks that "he has written as many miles of manuscript as any living man." What a retrospect is suggested by the following! "It must seem an age to Mr. McCarthy since he caught his first glimpse of London. The Crystal Palace was in Hyde Park then, and the Duke of Wellington was walking down Whitehall in his blue coat and white duck trousers. Lord John Russell was passing Reform Bill; Dickens, Carlyle, Thackeray, John Bright, and all the great virtuosos were in their prime." Few living men have written

so many personal reminiscences, political, historical, and otherwise, than has Mr. McCarthy; yet, we believe, that he could still furnish from the store-house of his experiences and memories, one of the most interesting and instructive books of the age. He not only saw all these great characters in their prime, but has followed hundreds of others to their graves, and still lives, fresh and vigorous, full of life and hopefulness, to record the advent of a new century and a new order of men. May he live, in health and strength, mental and physical, to enjoy many another birthday anniversary, is our fondest wish.

NOT QUITE ANGELS.—A very edifying incident is recorded of the conduct of three young men during the recent heavy fogs in London. It was a gentle service that they rendered to some of the Sisters of Nazareth House. The story is thus recorded:—"The collecting van was being to make its way home after being out with two of the Sisters all day collecting food for the poor in the city and West End. When they arrived at Piccadilly the fog was so thick that the poor old man who was driving got nervous, and one of the Sisters was obliged to lead the van. After going some way three young gentlemen came forward and begged her to get into the van, and offered to lead the horse, which they did in turns, watching at the same time that no harm came to the Sisters from the vehicles behind, and walked all the way till they saw them safe at Nazareth House door. They never waited to be thanked, but raised their hats and in a second were lost in the fog.

"Perhaps they were angels," suggested somebody who had begun to believe that the age of human civility was dead. "Yes," said the Sister, "I might have said the same, but one of them was smoking a cigar."

UNHAPPY POLAND.—According to the "Cologne Gazette" and the "Magdeburgische Zeitung" more drastic measures are to be taken against the Poles, on account of the spirit of unrest which seems to prevail in Poland. It looks as if a new rebellion was about to commence. Not unlike that of Ireland has been the career of Poland. Drastic measures to repress a spirit of unrest, sounds very like coercion to check free expression of sentiments and to gag all appeals for political justice. Poland seems to have ever been peculiarly friendless while awakening the sympathies of all liberty-loving people. Is it any wonder that a spirit of unrest should pervade a race that is galling under a yoke that might alone press down upon its neck? And because of that unrest, the Poles are to be punished. It is not unlike chaining a man to a prison wall and whipping him because he frets. However, Poland is weak, and the future presents very slight prospect of any great amelioration in her condition.

HEROIC SISTERHOODS.—Protestant testimony is not lacking when the heroism and self-sacrifice of Catholic Sisterhoods are mentioned. No matter how men may differ from our Church, no matter how opposed they may be to the teachings of Catholicity, they invariably give credit to our nuns for all the noble deeds that they perform, for the lives of purity and devotion that they lead. In time of war, when the nation's flag is in danger, the brave, the patriotic, the heroic, volunteer their services in defence of their country; equally heroic, the volunteering of nuns in the time of plague or pestilence. At a meeting of the Prison Reform League of Boston, an organization that aims at making prisons lead to prevention and a decrease of crime, Rev. Dr. Frisby, of the Ritualist Church of the Advent, made use of these remarkable words:—"Our prisons are a failure; they breed crime, and our reformatories also breed crime, for while some few are won to better things, the greater number return to their old, evil life. Then our prisons send some new influence, some new power that will reform character and give a new motive for life, and religion alone can do this. This is no dream. The thing is being done at the House of the Good Shepherd, where all classes, from wayward girls to hardened women who have been the despair of the courts, live under the care of Sisters, and are humanized and Christianized."

We have the commencement of a smallpox scare in this section of the Dominion, and we know, from past experience, that whenever such dangers menace, the Sisters of one or other of our communities are ever ready to accept all the risks and sacrifices consequent upon the nursing of the isolated victims. In Boston the dread pestilence of smallpox is more widespread than in our country; the Sisters of Carney Hospital wrote to the Mayor of Boston, offering to shut themselves up in the pest-house with the sick, and nurse them through the disease. The same thing was done some years ago in Lowell, when the nuns remained secluded with the stricken until the last sign of the disease had passed away. There is, especially in the eyes of the outside world, something wonderfully heroic in this free sacrifice on the part of the members of our sisterhoods; but the world does not know that this is only one manifestation of the real and all important sacrifice made on the day that a Sister became a member of a religious community. On that day she made the great sacrifice of her life, which meant any or every work of mercy that might be placed in her path by the will of God. Truly beautiful are the lives of those women who give up all for the service of God and the happiness of their fellow-beings.

THE NEXT EDUCATION BILL.—The next session of the British Parliament will be opened by the King, in person, on the 12th January, 1902. It will certainly be one of the most important, and may be epoch-making sessions that this generation has witnessed. The war question alone would suffice to tax the very best skill and statesmanship of the Government. Apart from that all-important subject, there are questions of domestic policy that will test the ministry to the extreme. To say nothing of the Home Rule question and Ireland's various claims to just recognition, there is the matter of public elementary education.

It has been rumored, in a semi-official manner, that the Government will propose a bill to be introduced during the coming session to pay the whole cost of the secular education given in all voluntary schools, the managers to provide the buildings and to keep them in repair. If this were done the measure would prove highly acceptable and beneficial to the Catholic element. Decidedly such a bill would stir up the opposition and create an outcry on the part of certain secularist sections. It would then be for the ministry to prove its own strength and its earnestness by paying no heed to such opposition. With the majority that the Government commands this would seem a very easy course to follow; but is the Government so constituted as to resist any like appeals? In many instances the Cabinet has given evidence of a great lack of backbone, and the general opinion is that were it not for its immense majority in the House, it would be unable to cope with even the smallest of its difficulties.

It is often asked "what do the Catholics really want?" All they ask is very simple and very little. They ask nothing from the public purse for teaching their children their religion, but they insist that the public purse should pay for the purely secular education given in their schools, and that Catholic parents should be relieved of the burden of paying rates for the maintenance of Board Schools whilst contributing largely, at the same time, towards meeting the annual deficit incurred by most of their Catholic voluntary schools, through no fault of the managers, who have to satisfy the increasing demands of the Educational Department.

We take this definition of the situation and of the demands of the Catholic body in England from one of the most reliable of sources. Any way, it amounts to about the same thing as the Catholic demands in regard to separate schools either in the United States or in certain provinces of Canada. We can readily imagine the fever heat to which agitation would be worked up, were the situations reversed, and the Protestant parents were required to either have their children educated in purely Catholic institutions, or else bear the double burden of supporting two systems. It is passing strange that clear-headed men cannot see things in their real light.

RETREAT AT THE PALACE.—Since Sunday evening last Mgr. Bruchesi, Archbishop of Montreal, and all the priests of his household, have been on retreat. The preacher is Rev. Father Lemieux, vice-provincial of the Redemptorists. The retreat closes this evening. During the week only persons whose business was of a most urgent nature could have communication with any of the palace clergy. On Thursday morning, however, His Grace the Archbishop went down to the prison, and there celebrated Mass in the cell occupied by the condemned man, Laplaine. This act of consider-

ation on the part of the Archbishop was most keenly appreciated by the one whose execution will have taken place before this issue reaches our readers.

A BARBARIC CUSTOM.—In that dual habit which Germany seems to keep up, despite all the frowning down that it receives from outside, we find a trace of a barbarism that was once characteristic of the Teuton. When Lieutenant Blaskowitz, on the eve of his marriage, foolishly struck a brother officer, he was called upon to fight a duel, the result of which proved fatal to him. At his burial Superintendent General delivered an address, in which he entered a protest against what he called "the spirit of slavery which cannot and will not emancipate itself from the degrading bonds of prejudice and erroneous views of justice." The Emperor seems to have been impressed in the same sense, for he threatened with severest measures, the other day, two young officers who wanted to fight a duel, and by his interference prevented the young hot heads from perpetrating a crime. After all, duelling seems to be the most unrepensible of all manners of settling a difference. You can never convince a man by calling him out to be shot; no more can the killing of a man prove that you are justified or that he was in the wrong. It is to be hoped that a more Christian spirit will eventually efface this uncivilized practice.

CANCER CURE.—Dr. John Gilman, professor at the Halmemann College, Chicago, claims to have discovered a successful treatment for cancer. According to his own statement, "we are at the beginning of an era when cancer will have no terrors. In the last year and a half I have treated over fifty cases of cancer, including many forms of the disease, and have failed to find a single one which did not yield readily. I believe the disease can, in future, be broken down quickly and surely, even when treatment does not begin before the disease is well advanced." This certainly is claiming a great deal. We have no doubt whatsoever of Dr. Gilman's seriousness, nor do we say that he is over sanguine, but we certainly would prefer to await the verdict of the future, when his system shall have been fully and duly tested, before accepting the pleasant and encouraging information that his declaration contains. Possibly cancer can be cured; if this learned physician succeeds in discovering a treatment that will efface the terrors inspired by that dread disease, he will have a right to be ranked with the great benefactors of the human race.

THE FIRST SIGN.—The Municipal Council of Paris on Monday discussed the question of the applications for authorization made by certain congregations. The Council negatively by forty-four votes to thirty-three an order of the day in favor of the refusal of the required authorization, and adopted by thirty-nine votes to thirty-three an order of the day declaring the Associations Bill to be bad and anti-republican, and giving its opinion that no restriction should be placed on freedom of association.

PROHIBITS CHURCH FAIRS.—Sometime ago Archbishop Bruchesi sounded the death knell of bazaars in Montreal. Now Maine Catholics are agitated by a decree of Bishop O'Connell of the Portland diocese. His Lordship says there must be no more church fairs of any sort because of the drain they have proved on poor families; furthermore, they have brought a train of evils from lotteries, excessive dancing, etc.

GALWAY CITY ELECTION.

We publish below a report of the recent Galway election, taken from one of our Irish exchanges, received this week, to point out how bitter and sensational were the reports which were published in the daily press of Montreal the day after the election was held. Our exchange says:—"From the moment the polls opened in the morning at eight o'clock the doors of the booths were besieged with voters, and the recording of the votes went on without intervention until one o'clock. Up to that time it was estimated that at the five polling stations over 800 votes were recorded, and of these Colonel Lynch got at least two to every one cast for Mr. Plunkett. With considerable experience of contested elections, I can say there never were more perfect arrangements for the purpose. From eight o'clock this morning cars and hackes were to be seen flying in all directions and returning with their quota of voters, who were cheered as they drove to the polling stations. Dependancy was written plainly in the faces of Mr. Plunkett and his

supporters, and Mr. Plunkett, making no secret of his opinion that the famous anonymous deputee grossly misled him as to the condition of affairs in Galway. The result of the poll has been declared as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Candidate and Votes. Includes Nationalist majority (774), Former Elections (1900), and 1886 results.

At twenty-five minutes to eleven o'clock the High Sheriff declared the result of the Galway election as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Candidate and Votes. Shows Mr. Lynch (1,247) and Mr. Plunkett (772) with a majority of 475.

Mr. Horace Plunkett, in ascending the vote of thanks, admitted that there had been some exaggeration in the description of the scenes in Galway during the present week. He admitted that while he was satisfied some days to compete with forces which were put in the field against him, the magnitude of the victory, on which he congratulated his opponents, came to him as a surprise. He could only hope they would use their victory as well as he should try to bear the defeat that he should do his utmost to secure that so far as he and his friends were concerned no public interest should suffer by any action that they had thought well to take or that they might think well of to take in regard to the public objects they were pursuing. He must thank for himself and his friends that, although they found themselves in strong opposition upon certain questions of policy to those who had defeated them, they were acting in what they considered to be the highest interests of the country. He was just as convinced now as when he came to Galway that it was absolutely essential to find some way of reconciling the industrial progress of the country with the political aspirations which various parties in Ireland hold. He need only, in conclusion, ask those with whom he had been in conflict, to try and forget any hard things which might have been said on his side or their own. Let them all profit by what they had learned, and let them try to hasten the day when they should be working together in the cause of National progress. They must admit that there would always be differences between Irishmen, but he looked forward to a time when these differences would be fewer in number, and less acute than they were today. He should continue the work in which he had been engaged, but he should be justified in considering far he should be justified in occupying the position which he now held—which he admitted to be somewhat anomalous—if he could not in the near future find some means of fulfilling one of the conditions of that position which he had tried unsuccessfully to fulfil with the help of the citizens of Galway. He wished Galway good-bye now. He should probably not appear again in that constituency as a Parliamentary candidate, but he hoped he might have opportunities of taking an interest in the affairs of the citizens of Galway if such an opportunity occurred in the future.

FOR FINE FERS.

Just bear in mind that there is no firm in Montreal who can sell you such fine garments so reasonably as we can. Every skin we put into a garment matches every other skin, the seams are taped, the workmanship the best quality, and the workmanship well, it's got to be the best to leave our store, Chas. Desjardins & Co., St. Catherine street.

ST. BRIGIDE'S NIGHT RAFFLE.

Report for week ending Sunday, 8th Dec., 1901: Males 289, females 38, Irish 141, French-Canadians 99, English 21, Scotch and other nationalities 11. Total, 372. The foregoing had night's lodging and breakfast.

UNITED

As one of our centrist and men... United... what prom... this circums... this city. W... and co-oper... land's Home... required th... have always... accept their... the duty. O... last week a... zens was hel... for the purp... cal brough... Les... is to furni... Ireland. The... meeting sta... to organize... thoroughly... Mr. J. E. R... evening the... and the fo... President, M... mary, Mr. J... or, John O'... mities was a... J. Kavanaugh... organizing... members, wi... convened. Th... the meeting... was sub... sending of a... hundred pou... mond for us... Needless... perfect harm... ject for wh... been establi... gratulate its... fly upon the... their very... manner of p... serves to p... for so many... years and to... divisions th... less than a... the Irish ta... hush leader... meet with b... sition from... and co-oper... ders of the... his immediat... sured of the... most enthus... our people in

HOLY NAME

most interes... money was th... at St. Patri... evening last... hundred and... solemn profes... confraternity... large an asse... proclaiming o... promise of r... for the Most... Redeemer. A... plighted word... a spectacle th... After the H... tion was giv... Rev. and th... ceremony of... profession of... had satisfact... term of pro... Quinlivan off... ler, with his... choir, enhance... sweet strains... heard yielding... ers of Rev. I... seemed to be... melody one... hears amidst... old Ireland.

ST. PATRICK

The annual m... rick's T. A. an... at St. Patrick... ing last. The... bers were ver... ying was doub... fact of the p... guished visitor... Rev. A. E. Bur... Deputy of the... Rev. Fa... President, pres... Costigan, and... were vice-chair... The meeting... opened and a... Mr. John P. G... cretary, present... report of Management, w... interesting one... the workings o... years, dwelling... detakings held... the good wor... which had atten... ings were held... since being 60... lost two of its... the death of... and J. Bresnan... three other ben... of wives of me... had also incre... but not to the... clial efforts had... the usefulness of... enlist the young... and the fruits o... beginning to b... The report of... Jas. H. Kelly, v... the finances sho... condition. The... bank, to the cr... fund, \$2,800. T... large surplus... fund, and the so... ties. The report of