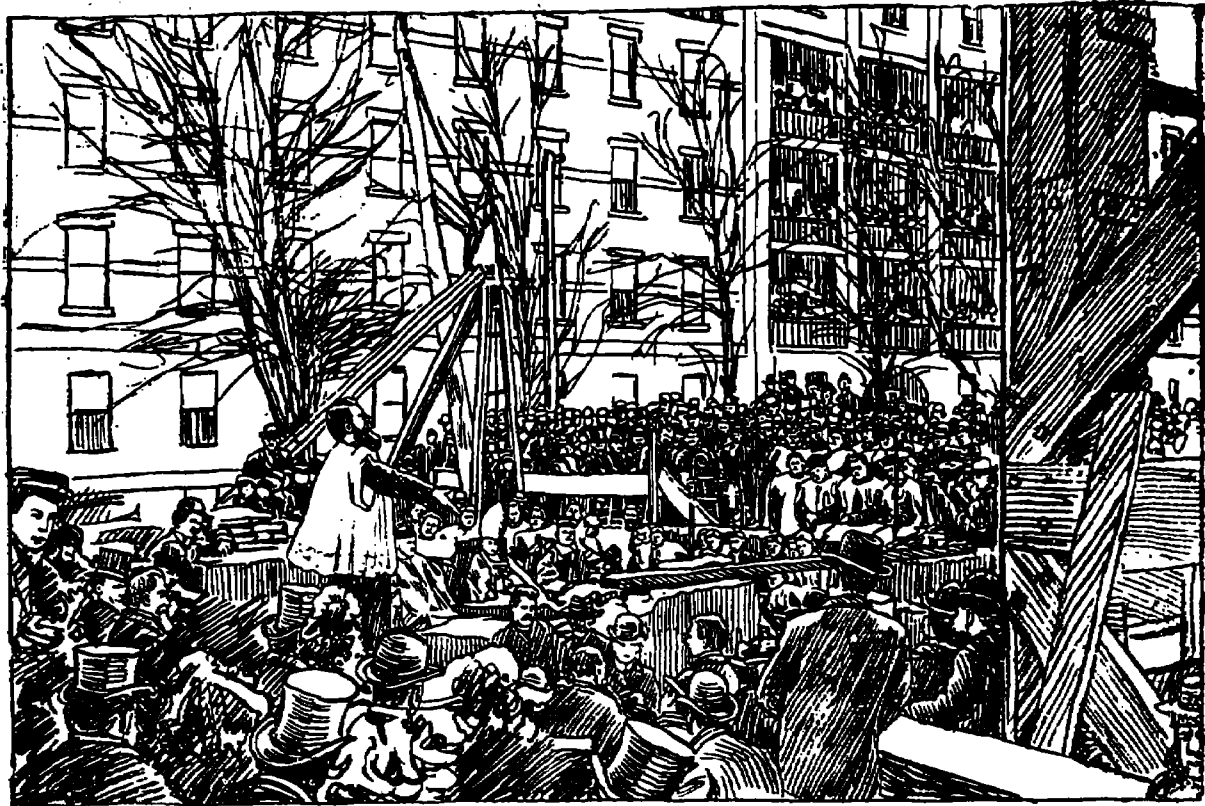


## IMPOSING CEREMONY IN ST. JEAN BAPTISTE PARISH.



BLESSING AND LAYING CORNER-STONE OF THE NEW CHURCH, ST. JEAN BAPTISTE PARISH.

Seldom if ever has the parish of St. Jean Baptiste witnessed a more imposing ceremony than that which took place on Sunday afternoon at the blessing and laying of the corner-stone of the new parish church. The parishioners are taking an active and deep interest in the work of rebuilding the sacred edifice as is proved by the spacious temple that is in the course of construction upon the site of the ruins of the old church which was razed to the ground by the terrible and disastrous fire of January 29, 1898.

The ceremony of Sunday will long be remembered by the faithful and clergy who were present. His Grace Mgr. Bruchesi, according to his own wish, presided at the ceremony, and was assisted by Rev. Father Renaud, S.J., and Rev. Father Lacombe, apostolic missionary. Upon a platform which had been erected for the occasion, the following clergy were seated beside His Grace:—

Very Rev. Father Colin, Superior of St. Sulpice; Rev. Father Verreault of Jacques Cartier Normal School; Rev. Father Eremont, St. Cunegonde; Rev. Father Desy, Immaculate Conception; Rev. Father Lecours, of Longue Pointe; Rev. Father Brault of St. Vincent de Paul; Rev. Father Belanger, of Maisonneuve; Rev. Father Lepailleur of Mile End; Rev. Father Provost, of Hochelaga; Rev. Father Morin, of St. Edward; Rev. Father Kavanagh, St. Vincent de Paul; Rev. Father Foucher, St. Therese; Rev. Father

Bedard, P. S. S.; Rev. Father Chausse, Vicar; Rev. Fathers Forest Perras and Adams of the Sacred Heart Church; Rev. Father Lacasse, St. Elizabeth; Rev. Father Brunet, St. Therese College; together with Rev. Father Auclair, parish priest of St. Jean Baptiste, and Rev. Fathers Guay Prefontaine, Piette and Casey, curates of St. Jean Baptiste and a large number of others.

Among the laity the following were noticed:—

Mr. Justice Gill, Mr. Justice Curran, Hon. A. Desjardins, Mr. Justice Papineau, Messrs. L. O. David, Tetreault, notary; Lucien Forget, Emile Vanier, architect of the new church; M. Blumhart, Ald. Ouimet and Roy, ex-Ald. Grothe, J. E. Beaudry, Dr. Germain, J. Decarie, M.P.P., G. Lamothe, M. Lefebvre, L. and E. Fautoux, M. Vandelac, M. Lavelle, and J. Lauzon.

The religious ceremony commenced by the singing of "Veni Sancte Spiritus," after which Rev. Father Belanger, parish priest of Maisonneuve, whose eloquent voice has been heard on many solemn occasions, delivered a magnificent sermon. The eloquent preacher developed the text from the Epistle to the Ephesians:—"Jesus Christ is the corner-stone upon which is erected the holy temple dedicated to the glory of God."

He gave a graphic description of the Christian Church and congratulated the parishioners of St. Jean Baptiste upon their zeal and courage in

rebuilding so soon the temple destroyed by fire. He also eulogized the painstaking parish priest the Rev. Father Auclair.

At the close of the sermon Father Auclair read a summary of the history of the parish of St. Jean Baptiste, written on parchment, which was to be placed in the corner-stone along with some newspapers and some Canadian coins.

After the reading of the document His Grace assisted by Rev. Father Lacombe, O.M.I., and Rev. Father Renaud, S.J., of St. Mary's College, recited the customary prayers after which the ceremony closed by Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The band of Mount St. Louis College lent their services for the occasion and discoursed sweet music. It is estimated that ten thousand persons were present at the ceremony.

Previous to the blessing of the corner-stone, His Grace the Archbishop administered Confirmation to the children of the Parish, who had made their First Communion on Saturday morning. Three hundred children, 165 girls and 135 boys were confirmed, Mr. P. Tetrault, N.P., and Mad. Tetrault, acted as sponsors.

Rev. Father Auclair, the indefatigable pastor, as well as Rev. Fathers Casey, Prefontaine, Piette and Guay, his able assistants, are to be congratulated for their great zeal and herculean efforts in the cause of God's glory.

## Notes From American Centres.

**SARA TRAINER SMITH DEAD.**—The readers of the "True Witness" will read with regret the announcement of the death of Miss Sara Trainer Smith. The name of this brilliant lady must have long since become familiar to all who have enjoyed her bright correspondence and charming stories published in these columns. One of our American contemporaries pays this delicate and eloquent tribute to the memory of the gifted one who has been suddenly snatched away even in the midst of her work and, possibly, while building up fine projects of future labor in the cause that she had at heart:—

"Sad and painful is the task of chronicling the death of Sara Trainer Smith. Her loss is almost a personal affliction with us, and we feel it as a close bereavement. The deceased author had been a member of 'The Catholic Standard' staff for a considerable time, and had endeared herself to all about her—not alone by her talents, but by an exquisite charm of disposition and a heart of perpetual sunshine. These qualities were always reflected in her literary work, whether prose or poetical. Miss Smith's Catholicity was that of the convert—but in its very best sense. She was a devoted daughter of the Church which in her days of youthful curiosity and sincerity of inquiry she had adopted. She took a deep interest in all literary matters pertaining to her religion—especially the work of the American Catholic Historical Society. The patriotism which was no less a distinguishing trait in her character was a thing of inheritance, for her father, Captain Smith, an intimate friend of Admiral Dewey's, had rendered conspicuous service in the Civil War as commander of the U. S. S. Alabama. To the long list of distinguished Catholics of which Maryland can boast is to be added the name of Sara Trainer Smith, for it was in Bohemia, Manor in that State (not inappropriately) this gentle Bohemian was born. The sadness

of her sudden taking off is enhanced by the fact that in the current month's 'Rosary Magazine' it is announced that a serial from her pen would begin in the next issue. The serial she will never finish, we are grieved to say, but we hope and pray that she has written her name where only angel eyes shall read, where there are no cold critics, and where all is joyful reward."

We might quote a score of very beautiful tributes paid to the memory of the lamented authoress, but we will content ourselves with the following from a Philadelphia publication:—

"Miss Smith was born in Bonamia Manor, Maryland. For a considerable time she lived at Cape May Point, leaving there in March, 1881, to take up her abode in this city, where she resided up to the time of her death. While still very young she became a convert to the Catholic faith, and has since been one of its most devout members."

"At a very early age Miss Smith began to figure prominently in the literary world. Her first articles were accepted by Harpers. Her style was simple, easy and graceful, and her plots interesting and well-defined. The fluency with which she wrote may be understood by the fact that she wrote her stories on the typewriter as she composed them, and never made a second copy. Miss Smith wrote a number of poems, but she was best known by her prose. As a writer of children's stories Miss Smith gained much celebrity. Her first long story appeared in Boys' and Girls' Own, in the New Year's supplement of this year, and was entitled 'Freil's Little Daughter.' The Rosary Magazine announced a serial from her pen to run for ten numbers and entitled 'In the Hill Country.' This charming work was not completed when its author died."

"Miss Smith was a woman of genial and courteous manner and of sterling character. As a manager of the

American Catholic Historical Society she has figured prominently for years."

As a last and parting word, we, who have been often benefited by the efforts of her facile pen, will simply unite in a fervent prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

**A PROTESTANT MINISTER'S CONVERSION.**—So numerous and important are the converts that have been weekly, and even daily, coming in to the Catholic Church—from the time of Newman down to this hour—that we do not deem it necessary to go into any elaborate effusions over the recent conversion of an Episcopalian minister of New York, Rev. Mr. Nichols. We will simply take two news items from the columns of the "World," as they contain all of a public or private nature, that can be reasonably expected by our readers. It is nothing wonderful to read of Protestant clergymen coming into our Church; in fact we are now so familiar with these events, that we are never surprised on hearing of some fresh conversion. It is thus that the "World" announces the fact:—

"Public announcement was made yesterday that the Rev. C. W. De Lyon Nichols, for some time an assistant rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church has become a convert to the Roman Catholic Faith. His change of faith was a complete surprise to the rector of St. Luke's, the Rev. John T. Patey. Mr. Nichols was received as a communicant at the 6 o'clock Mass in St. Stephen's Church, in East Twenty-Eighth Street, on Thursday."

"For three years," said Mr. Nichols in announcing his conversion, "I have been studying and debating the reasons which have led me finally to sever my relations with the Episcopal Church and become a Roman Catholic. I am now simply a Catholic layman."

"Mr. Nichols is the son of George Kneeland Nichols and was born in Nichols, Conn. He was for seven years a chaplain at Blackwell's Island in the Department of Public Correction."

The Rev. C. W. De Lyon Nichols, is well known in Bridgeport. His moth-

er lives in that city. Mr. Nichols arrived there yesterday, and remained until evening with his mother, when he returned to New York. Mrs. Nichols denied that her son changed his religion in order to marry a Catholic girl.

"There is no truth in such stuff," she said. "And I want to state also that I did not oppose his resolve as a newspaper said this morning."

## FIRST COMMUNION DAY AT LOYOLA COLLEGE.

On the morning of the Ascension, a charming ceremony took place in the chapel of Loyola College, which was beautiful decorated with a profusion of flowers, palms and lights, forming an exquisite whole and characterized by the rare good taste for which this institute is already famous. The occasion was the First Communion of some twenty-five boys, belonging to representative Irish or English-speaking families.

It was a touching sight as the little lads entered two by two, the earnestness and recollection of their faces showing the thoughtfulness of their preparation. The prayers before Communion were read aloud by one of the professors and the young communicants were followed to the altar by many parents and friends. After the thanksgiving, the rector of the college, Father O'Bryan addressed a few impressive words to those who had assisted for the first time at the sacred banquet, words to be long remembered and to recur, perhaps after many years. He said that it was needless for him to make any remarks as the dear Master whom they had just received into their hearts would say everything. The communion, that it was the greatest and happiest day of their lives was true, because it was the beginning of the grand beautiful life they were going to live, keeping themselves loyal to God, pure of heart, strong in true manliness, self-denying, chaste, pious and an example to the world about them.

That day, so beautiful, was touched with sadness, because of the temptations which encompassed them on every side, and to which they might so easily yield had they not frequent recourse to that source of strength they had just tasted. So, a husbandman is anxious as he beholds the beauty of an orchard, white with blossom, for may not a sudden blight fall upon it.

The boys then renewed their baptismal vows, their childish voices, uttering the responses, with so clear a ring of sincerity, so true a note of earnestness as to draw tears from many eyes. The ceremony concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by the singing of one of the familiar English hymns, which during the Mass had been sung with so fine effect by the boys, Father Cotter presiding at the organ.

The occasion was to some the more impressive that but a few evenings previous they had been present in Karn Hall, at what is known as a "Class Specimen" and had marvelled at the proficiency of the boys in classical studies, in English, French, and mathematics. It seemed scarcely credible that some of those who took part in the Greek and Latin exercises were but in their second or third year, so surprising was their grasp of the intricate tongues of the cultured.

Here, then were the two sides of Catholic college life; on the other hand, intellectual thoroughness, the striving after the highest culture, the most enlightened methods of instruction. On the other the inculcation of faith and piety, virtue and true manliness, the setting forth of Catholic ideals in all their excellence, and the insistence upon religious truths and duty to God as the great reality, beside which everything else is of little value.

So that the First Communion morning at Loyola College awakened many thoughts, wider and deeper than the mere beauty, the mere poetry of the occasion, with happy-hearted boys in their innocence, believing that it would be forever easy to offer such stainless hearts to their Master and their wiser and sadder elders, knowing, through tears, the stern battle that was but begun.—A. T. S.

## BOGUS BILLS.

Many reports have been made to police headquarters that counterfeit one dollar Dominion of Canada bills are being circulated in the city. Already four or five banks have discovered these bills, and it would appear that they have been spread freely throughout the city. The notes bear date "Montreal, June 1st, 1878." The notes are printed, appear to have gone through considerable usage, and are quite faded.

The paper is thin and rather coarse. The numbers are faulty, and their impression which was made with blue ink, seems brighter than the rest of the note. As a whole, however, the notes are fairly well made.

# A PLEA

## For the Shamrock Amateur Athletic Association.

The history of the Shamrock Amateur Athletic Association, and of all that it has accomplished during the last few years should suffice to prove the beneficial results that must flow from the proper encouragement of athletic games.

We do not purpose dwelling on the many and signal advantages to be derived from the training and the exercise of athletic pastimes; we all know that, when not carried to excess, there is no means more sure of developing the best faculties and energies of young men. The physical strength derived from outdoor exercise is the basis upon which must rest the mental power of a generation. Health and strength are both conducive to happiness, and without them the mind has not the vigor nor the buoyancy that are essential in almost every walk of life. But this is a theme too important to be lightly treated, and would now carry us beyond the limits of our present available space.

There is, moreover, no necessity of recalling all the pleasure, relaxation and recreation that the establishment of such manly and scientific games as lacrosse and football afford the public. Besides the healthiness, that is imparted to the active participants in such amusements, there are the social advantages to be derived from commingling with our fellow-citizens in hours of relaxation, as well as the material benefits that flow on all sides.

Almost every one of our city readers knows exactly where the S.A.A.A. grounds are situated, within half an hour's ride from any portion of the city. A few years ago—it seems only yesterday to those familiar with the place—that whole region was a wilderness. Since the Association purchased the ground and erected the various buildings thereon, a change, as if by magic working, has come over the whole locality. When first the land was bought there was no end of criticism; it was too far from town, too isolated, too costly; it was of no practical value; it never would be a paying transaction, it was a mad and thoughtless undertaking.

Thus commented many very sincere well-wishers. And this antagonism to the movement increased as the Association proceeded with its project, and spent money almost to the extent of \$40,000 upon the grounds and buildings and improvements. Without doubting for a moment the good intentions of those critical friends, we would simply invite them to take a run out to the Shamrock grounds and have a glimpse at the transformations that have been effected.

That which was a broad expanse of woods, swamps and intersecting farms, is now a large and important village. Houses, cottages, and summer residences of various kinds have made their appearance; shops, hotels, post-office, school-houses and church, occupy the barren fields of three or four years ago; electric cars rush in and out with all the hurry of modern activity—and we might add that it would pay the Montreal Street Railway Company to give a little closer attention to the service destined for that northern suburb of the city. No finer or better equipped grounds exist in Canada.

The summer season, about to open, will find—weekly at least, if not oftener—that locality thronged with citizens of Montreal and strangers from all parts of Canada. And when we consider that the membership fee of the Association is only four dollars per year, and that a ticket of membership entitles one gentleman and two ladies to the privileges of

the grounds throughout the season, we are impressed with the fact that the average cost for the complete enjoyment of every public event taking place there is not more than about seven cents for each privileged person.

This consideration alone should be an inducement to our fellow-citizens to encourage in a practical manner by becoming members—such a praiseworthy, useful and highly patriotic enterprise. It must not be thought that only young and athletic men are desirable as members. In fact any citizen—no matter what his age, his standing, or occupation—may reap benefits by taking a membership ticket, and even should he not be a practical and active participant in the games, he, at least, can be one who helps in a worthy cause, and gives encouragement to the younger generation in all that may tend to increase its happiness and develop its faculties. It is rumored that the M.A.A.A. purposes abandoning its present quarters on Mansfield Street, and erect its club and home—at a cost of \$100,000—out at the grounds at Cote St. Antoine. If it is possible for the English-speaking Protestant section of our people to so join hands and pursue as to enable their foremost Athletic Association to achieve such wonderful results, we see not why the Irish-Catholic element should not be able to afford the S.A.A.A. a degree of encouragement proportionate to their numbers and in accord with all that has been done already by the organization since its establishment.

And there are other means—apart from mere regular subscription memberships—whereby the utility of the Association might be augmented and its efficiency increased. Amongst others we might mention the indirect cooperation of other national bodies, such as the young men's societies, national societies, benevolent societies, and literary associations. By affiliating with the S. A. A. A. under such conditions as would allow of the older members of that body becoming practically members of these societies, a degree of encouragement would be given that is at present beyond calculation. Those members of the S. A. A. A. who, having spent their youthful and vigorous years in the activity of its sports and amusements, and whose advance into middle life—with its increased obligations and change of habits—would suggest their retirement to make way for the rising generation, might feel that they still belong to the Shamrocks and while finding a more suitable field for the exercise of their energies in the ranks of some sister association. Moreover, there would be created a species of link between all the Irish-Catholic organizations, whereby united action for mutual benefit would always be more easily attained.

We are merely throwing out these few hints in the hope that they may not prove useless, but, on the contrary, may constitute suggestions to be acted upon and to be improved upon in the future. Meanwhile, we feel that no need of praise that we can tender is undeserved by the enterprising and patriotic members of the S.A.A.A., and that this season in particular, and all their future in general, may be crowned with success and that trophies won and financial triumphs attained, may attest the strength of the Association and demonstrate the encouragement given it by the citizens of Montreal.

## A CAR OF CATTLE ON FIRE.

A somewhat unusual occurrence happened on the C. P. R. last week. Two train loads of cattle from Chicago of 19 cars each were sent out from Smith's Falls, Ont., bound for Montreal. Conductor Jarvis was in charge of one train, and just below Merrickville, Ont., he found that one of the cars was on fire. He quickly stopped the train and all hands set to work to jump the cattle out of the burning car. It was a difficult job, but they succeeded in doing it, and then they ran the train on to the Burritt Rapids siding, cut off the blazing car and left it to burn up. The cattle, which were big steers from the Western ranches, were pretty wild and not very easy to manage, but they were all safely corralled in a farmer's yard close by, and Superintendent Brady notified of the occurrence. Four of the cattle died from

their burns, and one other was killed out of mercy. All the others were more or less injured, and it is thought all of them will have to be killed at Montreal. The cattle were going through in bond, and the C. P. R. are bound to deliver the amount of cattle they received. This will necessitate the sending forward of the dead bodies of the burned animals so that at the port of delivery the full number may be accounted for.

## FOUR GOOD HABITS.

There are four good habits—punctuality, accuracy, steadiness and despatch. Without the first of these, time is wasted; without the second, mistakes the most hurtful to our own credit and interest, and that of others may be committed; without the third, nothing can be well done; and without the fourth, opportunities of great advantage are lost, which it is impossible to recall.