

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We are not responsible for the opinions of correspondents.]

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

SIR,—There has lately disappeared from public view a noted clergyman of the Methodist Church, in the person of the late Rev. Dr. Douglas. His many virtues and other good qualities have formed the theme of numerous sermons and obituary addresses. So that a widespread sentiment prevails among our separated brethren that a great chief has fallen in Israel. It is not my object to detract one iota from his fair name. He was without doubt a model husband, a loving father, an upright citizen, and a staunch advocate of social purity. In addition to these lofty encomiums, he was characterized at a meeting of the Ministerial Association as devoted, heart and soul, to the dissemination of the Holy Scriptures, which he claimed to be not only a right, but a sacred duty, "no matter from what quarter opposition might come." Seeing the late lamented clergyman can impart no information on the subject, I would fain learn from the Ministerial Association, of which he was so conspicuous a member, from what quarter they fear opposition. Certainly not from non-Catholics; neither can it be expected to occur on the part of non-Christians and free-thinkers, who make the Scriptures a butt for criticism, and an excuse for infidelity. The opposition, if any, can arise from no other quarter than the Catholic Church. Yet this supposition can hardly fill the bill. For to the loving care of the Catholic Church, we are all indebted, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, for the conservation and perpetuation both of the Old and the New Testament. The Church, then, cannot justly be accused of opposing the Scriptures, seeing she makes use of them every day in her offices and in all her sermons and instructions. What she does oppose, and what she will never cease to condemn, is *Bible-worship*, or the attaching of more importance to the dead letter of a book than to the living voice of the Church—the chosen mouth-piece of the Almighty, which He commanded all His followers not only to hear but to obey. "He that heareth you heareth me," and he that despiseth you despiseth me." In the Bible system of Christianity these words of the Redeemer, and many others that occur in the Sacred Scriptures,—so consoling to the Catholic and confirmatory of his faith,—are to the Protestant bereft of all comfort save as a lesson of reproof.

In the sixteenth century the Church beheld nearly all over Europe, but particularly in England, Scotland and Ireland, her shrines desecrated and levelled to the ground, her altars overthrown, the daily Sacrifice abolished, and the Bible become, as it were, the abomination of desolation "set up in the Holy Place," as alone worthy of respect and veneration. (See Dan. xii. ii). In King James' version the passage is rendered,—*"abomination that maketh desolate."* Accordingly, the early reformers, armed with bible in one hand, as their authority, and with crowbar in the other, proceeded to make desolate the temples and other holy places erected by the skill of our Catholic forefathers, stripping them of everything that savoured of devotion or of ornament. Not even the organ, so well adapted to elevate the soul to heavenly thoughts and aspirations could escape their blind fury, fanaticism and ferocity; it was hurled amidst jeers and derision to the floor beneath an idolatrous "box of whistles." Nor did bible-christianity rest satisfied until the glorious Bride and Spouse of Jesus Christ was stripped of her royal jewels,—her schools, colleges and universities, and sent forth naked and desolate to seek uncertain refuge in valleys, caves and mountains. Then it was that Satan may be truly said to have roamed about like a "roaring lion seeking whom he might devour." But if he roars less lustily now than in the spring-time of the Reformation, he is far from idle. In the neighboring Republic he is now busy training the young cub A.P.A. to roar like his sire, having succeeded in devouring the Catholic schools of the Northwest. But the grand project at which he has labored assiduously in Lower Canada, though with scant success, for upwards of forty years, is to set up Bible-worship in the Sanctuary, to cause the daily Sacrifice to cease on the banks of the St. Lawrence, and to make the everlasting Church of

Jesus Christ as cold and desolate in the land of Chiniquy as he made it erstwhile in the land of Knox.

A. G. GRANT.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH OF MAY.

Montreal, April, 1894.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

SIR,—It is astonishing to read in the daily press that Catholic Societies are announcing excursions for the 24th of May. That day is the Feast of Corpus Christi. I trust general attention will be drawn to the fact through your paper. It will not be pleasant to know that Catholics are, or will be, the cause of unnecessary work on a holy day, even allowing that some holy days have been limited during the past year.

CITY READER.

[The foregoing letter was received as we were going to press. We would remind our City Reader that Corpus Christi is not a holy day of obligation; that excursions take place even on Sundays; that whether the societies did or did not hold excursions, it being the Queen's Birthday, the same men would have to work. The non-Catholic element will have excursions on that day. Steamboat men are not going to snub to the wharf and lose that harvest, simply because it is a Catholic holiday. Railway men, street-car employees, steamboat hands, and others in like situations, could not escape work, even were the Catholic societies to forego their very legitimate excursions.—Ed. T. W.]

THAT \$50,000 CASE.

THE CANADA-REVUE AGAINST THE ARCH-BISHOP.

This case is now closed; it would be impossible for us—considering the space at our disposal—to give a full report of the trial, and any synopsis of it would necessarily be most incomplete, for it is a series of links forming an important chain. Now that argument has been heard on either side, and that the case is taken *en delibere* by the Court, it is obvious that we cannot comment upon its merits. The position we occupy, and the circumstances that surround the case, make it clear that any expression of opinion, at this stage, might be wrongly construed and our motives misrepresented. Consequently, we reserve all comment and expression of opinion until the judgment is delivered.—Ed. TRUE WITNESS.

A JOINT CONCERT

IN AID OF ST. GABRIEL'S CHURCH.

On Friday evening next—the 20th April—a joint concert will be given in the new parish church of St. Gabriel's by the members of the different societies of the parish. The St. Gabriel's T. A. & B. Society, Branch 74 C. M. B. A., Court No. 185 C. O. F., and Division No. 2 A. O. H. have combined to present a magnificent programme on the occasion. The admission fee will be 50c and 25c. The funds will go to the defraying of expenses in connection with the building of the new church. It must be gratifying to good Father O'Meara, the energetic and popular pastor of that important parish, to find such harmony and zeal in the different organizations connected with St. Gabriel's and to know that a spirit of enterprise, so strongly and tangibly manifested, exists in the community. We trust that the concert will be a grand success; not one of the parishioners should fail to attend, and outsiders—amongst whom are a legion of Father O'Meara's friends—should put in an appearance. We hope the splendid new edifice will be thronged to its utmost capacity. The floral decorations will be under the superintendence of Messrs. W. B. Davidson & Sons. St. Gabriel's fife and drum band will discourse music; and the songs, recitations, dances, instrumental pieces, fancy marching, wand drill, and other items on the programme promise—considering the well-known talent of the performers—a most successful entertainment. Miss Maggie O'Byrne will preside at the piano, and Rev. Father O'Meara will deliver the introductory address. "Come one, come all!"

APPOINTMENTS.

His Grace Archbishop Fabre has appointed Abbe Pierre Leduc cure of St. Hermae, and Abbe E. Bedard, almoner to the Asylum of the Female Deaf and Dumb, on St. Denis street.

MAISONNEUVE MONUMENT.

TROUBLE MAY DELAY ITS FINAL ERECTION.

At the meeting of the Maisonneuve monument committee, in the Mechanics' Hall, on Saturday afternoon, there were present: Judge Baby (in the chair), Judges Wurtele and Pagnuelo, Dr. Leprohon, Vicomte de la Barthe, Lieut.-Col. Butler, Messrs. R. Roy, Q. C., Richard White, J. A. U. Baudry, Walter Walter Drake, J. X. Perrault, De Lery Macdonald, R. W. McLachlan, Robert Reid, J. D. Rolland and G. Brunet. Reviewing the position of affairs, the chairman remarked that those entrusted with the collection of funds had done their very best, but the question now was whether they could put up the monument in their present financial position.

Mr. White reported the subscriptions to be \$11,391.99, and after disbursements made they were left with a balance of \$64.11 only.

Judge Pagnuelo remarked that Mr. Hebert had only been paid \$6,000 on the contract price of \$16,000 for the statue, and it would be a breach of trust to take possession of it without paying the money promised. The judge also referred to the want of enthusiasm in the matter. There followed rather unpleasant explanations between Judge Pagnuelo and Mr. Reid respecting the latter's tender for the construction of the pedestal. Each gave his version as to the reason that brought on Mr. Reid's refusal to go on with the contract, and finally Mr. Reid declared that all he wanted was to get back his deposit of \$250. The judge complained that lawyers' letters to the committee, on behalf of Mr. Reid, had no doubt stopped many English subscriptions.

Dr. Leprohon paid a tribute to the generosity of the English-speaking citizens with respect to the monument.

It was finally decided to leave the matter of this slight difficulty in the hands of Judge Baby, who would arrange things amicably, after which they could proceed with the subscriptions.

A vote of thanks was tendered the chairman, and the meeting dispersed.

Under the circumstances, the chances for the inauguration of the monument in May are very small indeed.

LORD AND LADY ABERDEEN.

TO VISIT MOUNT ST. LOUIS COLLEGE.

To-morrow His Excellency the Governor-General and Lady Aberdeen will pay a visit to Mount St. Louis College, on Sherbrooke street. A grand reception is being prepared, and we are confident that the distinguished visitors will go away with a high impression of the students, teachers, system and organization of this, one of the foremost educational houses in Montreal.

THE STANDARD LACROSSE CLUB.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Standard Lacrosse Club held their annual meeting on Friday last, at 30 Alexander street. Mr. D. Ross occupied the chair. There were about 45 members present to encourage the team this season in bringing the championship to their quarters of the city, and from the most excellent showing they made last year against the present champions it is safe to predict that the close of this season will bring the wearers of the white and green to that coveted position. The report of last year's proceedings were read and was well received, they having shown the club to be in a flourishing condition. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Hon. president, Mr. Amos White; president, M. Callaghan; vice-president, D. Ross; 2nd vice-president, J. Daoust; secretary, J. Heaver, treasurer, M. Riley; field captain, T. Murphy. Committee: W. Talbert, D. Brown, M. O'Connor, W. Hickey and J. Dow. Delegates to Independent League: M. Callaghan and D. Ross.

A GRAND BAZAAR.

On Monday the Sisters of Providence opened a grand bazaar at the Deaf and Dumb Asylum on St. Denis street, for the benefit of that most deserving institution. We trust that the citizens of Montreal will make it a duty to contribute all they can to that worthy enterprise, for the sake of religion and of those afflicted children.

REV. FATHER SOULIER.

THE SUPERIOR-GENERAL OF THE OBLATS ARRIVES.

Rev. Father Jean Baptiste Louis Soulier, Superior-General of the Oblat Order, accompanied by Rev. Father Joseph Eugene Antoine, second Superior-General, and late Provincial of the Order in Canada, arrived here last night. Rev. Father Lefevre, the present provincial, went to New York to meet them. There was a demonstration at the railway station, and at the presbytery of St. Peter's, on Visitation street, the addresses of welcome were read. To-night the young men of St. Peter's congregation will give an entertainment and concert, which they have been preparing for a long time. This is the first time that a Superior-General of the Oblat Order ever left France to visit another country in such a capacity; but the object of his journey to this country is considered most important. He will only remain in this city long enough to rest himself after his journey, and he will leave for Manitoba, the North-West Territories and British Columbia, as far north as the Mackenzie River. The people of these regions, as far as their religious wants are concerned, are cared for by the Fathers of the Oblat Order. There are about three hundred members of that Order scattered over that country, including an archbishop, bishops, priests and lay brothers. The object of the Oblat Order is to settle the country, and when parishes have been established, to transfer them to secular priests; but so far there are very few secular priests in the North-West or Manitoba. The Fathers own considerable property in those regions, in the shape of colleges and churches. All questions affecting religion, naturally interest the Order greatly. All the bishops of the North-West are Oblats. Mgr. Tache, of St. Boniface; Mgr. Grandin, of St. Albert; Mgr. Grouard, of Mackenzie; Mgr. Durioux, of British Columbia, and Mgr. Clut. Their Lordships are now concerned in the troubles that are agitating the people of the West, and the Superior-General on their invitation is going out to consult with

AND ADVISE THEM.

At the last chapter of the Bishops he was requested to send one of his assistants; but he answered that he would not only do that, but go himself and see what are the wants of his priests and their flocks. He will render them all the assistance in his power. It is not known yet what will be the outcome of this visit, but it is thought that it will have much to do with the settling of the questions that now agitate the minds of the people of the North-West. It is also believed that a number of new priests will be sent west, as the Catholics have been asking for them this long time. No steps will be taken for some time yet, as everything will be well studied first, but developments will surely come. Rev. Father Soulier is the third Superior-General of the Oblat Order. He was elected in May last, and he is now sixty-six years of age. He was several years the first assistant of the Order.

Rev. Father Antoine was Provincial of the Order in Quebec and Ontario during twenty years. Seven years ago, he was called to France as second assistant of the Order, a position which he still occupies, though he also comes to Canada, this time as visitor of the Order in Canada. The rev. gentleman is well known here.

Mgr. Tache, who is another distinguished member of the Order, was the third priest of the Oblats to perform the duties of the ministry in Canada. On the return of the rev. Fathers, there will be a religious demonstration with ceremonies at St. Peter's Church. The date of their return is not settled.

C. M. B. A.

REGULAR MEETING OF BRANCH 26.

There was a large gathering of members of the C.M.B.A. in Glenora Hall, on Monday evening, at the regular meeting of Branch 26. The Secretary, Mr. J. J. Costigan, read his reports, which were very interesting. Five new members were received into the Branch. A Committee was appointed to make arrangements for an open meeting which will be held on Monday, April 23. A resolution of condolence was passed with Vice-President Corcoran on the death of his wife. During the evening several of the visitors made short addresses,