

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

(From our Own Correspondent.)



VERY REV. DR. TEEFY, President.

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE.—A few days ago, when, as the representative of the "True Witness" I made a visit to St. Michael's College, it would not have required a great deal of fancy to imagine oneself thrown amongst scenes and surroundings far removed from all else save things Catholic and classical. Though within five minutes walk of the busy life of Yonge street, the College and its grounds are so perfectly a thing apart that nothing from the outside intrudes, and pen-pictures of Parkman come before one, as the black-cassocked ecclesiastic approaches down the gravelled walk, or the students intent upon whatever work may be in hand, pass one in the halls.

It was a happily prophetic spirit that guided the founders half a century ago, when the site of the College was chosen; no more fortunate circumstances and surroundings could anywhere be selected to make the establishment all things desirable as to location and environment. Situated near the head of the fine stretch of Queen's Park and with many colleges, culminating in the University of the Province, all in sight, it claims the distinction of being the only Catholic College on the continent so situated. The building itself stands on an elevation fronted by a sloping terrace ornamented with trees and broad gravelled walks; it is of white brick, oblong in shape, terminated at one end by the parish Church of St. Basil and at the other by the new wing, the erection of which marks the beginning of the second half of the century of the existence of the institution.

Through the kindness of the President, Very Rev. Dr. Tefpy, a guide was sent to show me through the house, but particularly the new building. Here we found study halls, class rooms, dormitories, private rooms, music rooms, the shower bath room and laboratories. The apartments are well lighted and the ventilation and heating are said to be of the best. The ceilings are of white metal work, and the floors of maple; nothing but rows of beds are seen in the dormitories, the toilet rooms adjacent being supplied with wardrobes, and each student is allowed a "locker" for his exclusive use. Rows of marble basins down the centre of the room told where the ablutions are performed. With particular pride the "shower bath room" is pointed out, this is an innovation in its way, and perfect of its kind, the baths of white marble and the concrete floor of a pinkish hue render it an attractive spot. There are two large study-halls, one for seniors and the other for juniors; the commercial room is one of the nicest and best equipped of the house—nearly a smaller room, where the rows of typewriters told their own tale.

A lunch room and cloak room for the day pupils were also visited. The laboratory, where several young chemists were exploring the mysteries contained in dangerous-looking blue bottles, is still in an embryo condition, but larger things are in view in the near future. Recreation rooms with games of all descriptions, show that the laws of the Greek are familiar here, that while storing the mind and training the soul the body is not neglected.

In passing through the house we incidentally came across representatives of all its grades, little lads of nine or ten, youths of all ages upward to young ecclesiastic almost ready for the great seal which should stamp him as one no longer in tutelage but henceforth as a "teacher of men."

On glancing at the curriculum it is seen that it takes the child, if desired, at the age of ten and leads

him on until he obtains his degree of B.A. from the University close at hand, and with which St. Michael's College is affiliated. This feature is not found in any other Catholic College on the continent. The College, though largely theological, has facilities for teaching the entire academic, collegiate, preparatory and commercial courses. When it is considered that the institution is altogether self-supporting, depending solely on its fees—tuition and board the extremely low rate of \$160 a year—and the generosity of friends, that it not only exists but at the same time presents a record for the output of great and good men of which any college might be proud, the results are surprising. The following names are found in the ranks of the alumni: Most Rev. Denis O'Connor, Archbishop of Toronto; Rt. Rev. T. J. Dowling, Bishop of Hamilton; Rt. Rev. R. A. O'Connor, Bishop of Peterborough; Rt. Rev. T. A. Burke, Bishop of Albany; Rt. Rev. F. P. McEvay, Bishop of London; J. J. Foy, Esq., K.C., LL.D., M.P.P.; Very Rev. J. J. McCann, V.G.; His Honor Judge McCurry, Rev. J. J. Barrett, J. P. Murray, Esq., Rev. J. H. Coty, Rev. P. B. McLoughlin, Rev. W. J. McCloskey, Rev. J. Talbot Smith, J. L. Cosgrave, Esq., Thos. Mulvey, B.A., K.C., Very Rev. Dean Egan and H. T. Kelly, Esq.

The Provincial and Examiner in Theology is Very Rev. V. Marjoul, B.A., C.S.B., and the President and Professor of Mental Philosophy is Very Rev. J. R. Tefpy, M.A., LL.D., C.S.B. These gentlemen, together with a large staff of Basilians—founders and directors of the College—and several lay teachers make up the staff of the school. Doctor J. J. Cassidy is the attending physician.

In passing through the house one cannot but be impressed with the idea that though the college contains every essential to health and the carrying on of good up-to-date scholastic work, it is at the same time devoid of many things which we are apt to associate with classic halls of learning. It has, of course, the advantage of being associated with St. Basil's Church, in whose beautiful sanctuary the ceremonies are carried out in the most perfect manner and in these the students take part, but in the College itself the paintings, statuary, busts and magnificent libraries are nowhere visible; there is, it is true, a fair library for the students, and the house contains many small collections of books, but as the Very Rev. President observed with reference to his own, these are "working libraries," the countless volumes have not yet been gathered. The question rises in the mind, where is the visible gratitude of the many who claim this College as their Alma Mater? All have not been negligent; scholarships and medals are given annually by several who were once children of the Institution; four Bursaries have been lately added, but these gifts are but few when compared with the many upon whom this kind Alma Mater lavished care and attention.

If her one-time children scattered all over the continent would remember that the old homestead is in need of assistance, and would each send his mite at this opportune moment of the building and opening of the new wing, I feel sure—though it is understood that no one even hinted at such a thing—that their thought in this direction would be appreciated, that the old mother, with an ever increasing family whom she is anxious to surround with all the culture of the times, would gratefully acknowledge the gift. The cheque, of course, comes first, then the bust or painting, or the book from many an over-laden library shelf would all find a welcome and fitting niche in St. Michael's College.

Looking over the roll of some two hundred and fifty students, we find that New York, Quebec, Ontario, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan and Rhode Island are amongst the spots whence they hail; this may meet the eye of some even in the most distant state, and the sketch, incomplete though it be, may remind them of the place which was once "home," of the Alma Mater always glad to hear from her absent children.

THE JUBILEE.—A letter from His Grace Archbishop O'Connor was read

in the Churches on Sunday last. It related to the encyclical from His Holiness Pope Pius X., declaring a jubilee in honor of his accession to the Pontifical chair. In this diocese the time in which the jubilee may be made is three months, dating from the day of the reading of the letter. The conditions embrace three visits to the Cathedral for those living within two miles of same, otherwise to parish Church, one day of fasting—the black fast—and the usual conditions of Confession and Holy Communion.

MISSION AT ST. BASIL'S.—The ten days mission going on at St. Basil's, under the direction of the Redemptorist Fathers Connolly and Zilles, is simply a phenomenal success. The congregations, large from the beginning, are increased at each exercise, and the surprise on each occasion is how the great number issuing from the Church were ever packed within its precincts. On Sunday evening the students of the College were given seats in the Sanctuary in order to accommodate the overflow of people who attended the exercises. When all were seated it was simply an unbroken mass that covered the floor. The sermon was a most practical and forcible exposition of the commandments of the Church, and was preached from the text, "He that will not hear the Church, let him be to thee as the heathen and publican." The mission "loses on Tuesday, when a solemn Mass of Requiem for deceased members of the parish will be sung and the Papal blessing will be given in the evening to all who have made the mission.

The Catholic Chinese.

(By an Occasional Contributor.)

For some years back a very pronounced movement towards Catholicity has been going on amongst the Chinese in Montreal. Rev. Father Martin Callaghan, P.P. of St. Patrick's, has been the first to devote himself to the noble work of the conversion of these Chinamen, and he has had the consolation of seeing the number of his converts yearly increase in numbers. Over one hundred and forty Chinese have already received baptism, and a vast number of others, still pagan, seek the same favor, but their imperfect knowledge of the English language prevents them from making due headway. His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi, having learned of this state of affairs, with his habitual devotedness, became deeply interested in the fate of these poor Orientals, whom Providence sent to his fold. He gave instructions to the Provincial of the Jesuits in Canada, to try and secure from the Superiors of the Order in Rome, a Chinese missionary, to come and take charge of the Chinese Catholic population of Montreal. The Chinese received this news with great joy, and expressed their gratification to His Grace. Accompanied by Rev. Father Martin Callaghan, and Rev. Etienne Demers, to the number of 140, they went to the Archbishopal Palace the other day, and presented His Grace with the following address:

To His Grace Mgr. Paul Bruchesi, Archbishop of Montreal.

YOUR GRACE.—The Catholic Chinese of Montreal are happy to offer to Your Grace the expression of their profound respect and their sincere esteem for your person. We came, Your Grace, to Canada all filled with the errors of the religion of our fathers; but since it has been given to us to know and appreciate the beauties of the Catholic religion and its truths, we understood that we must sacrifice all to belong to it. Charitable souls have powerfully assisted us in this difficult task, and we are happy to-day to be able to say to Your Grace that many among us have already received baptism, and that a large number seek the same happiness. But, Your Grace, a serious obstacle arises in the path of our spiritual advancement, we are not acquainted with the language of the country, and we understand only in an imperfect manner the religious instruction given to us.

Also we feel the need of a missionary from our own country, who speaks our language, and understands our wants. You alone, Your Grace, can secure for us that signal favor. Also have we learned, with inexpressible joy, that you have already taken steps in that direction for us. For that deed of great kindness, please, except, Your Grace, all our gratitude, and may Heaven crown your efforts and reward you a hundredfold for all the good you are doing for the poor children of China.

Montreal, March 27th, 1904.

In reply to this address, Mgr. Bruchesi told them of the pleasure he felt of seeing them in such numbers, around his person, and his happiness on being able to call them, to-day his children. He gave them a historical sketch of that Catholic religion to which they have just been called, and pointed out to them the duties they have now to fulfil in order to become good Catholics; he promised never to lose sight of them, and to look upon them as the privileged children of the great Catholic family that God had confided to his care. He hoped that in a few months a missionary would come from China who would be for them a guide, a protector and a father; in the meantime they would have to go under the guidance of those who had taken such a deep interest in their future.

This touching address was translated into Chinese for them by Mr. Goon Hay You, who then presented the delegates, one by one, to His Grace, who blessed each in turn. They then all retired, filled with a great joy and with faces beaming with real contentment.

Next Sunday, at St. Bridget's Church, Rev. Mr. Demers will receive five Chinese into the Church—the names of the five are, Chin Clue, Ling Hung, Quang Quing, Chin Dick and Chin Hunk.

NOTES FROM QUEBEC

(By Our Own Correspondent)

CHOIR MASTER DEAD.—Pierre Roy, choir master of L'Immaculée Church, died suddenly on March 25. He was about to sing Mass when he expired. Deceased, who was 72 years of age, died in the arms of his daughter, who is organist of the Church.

WILL THEY STRIKE?—The difficulty between the master painters and their employees is still unsettled. A meeting of master painters of this city, about 25 in number, was held this week to consider the demands of the men. The increase demanded is considered exorbitant and in all probability there will be trouble, as both sides seem inclined to fight. The new scale takes effect April 1st. When the cost of living is taken into consideration, the new scale, 25 cents an hour, is only a living wage.

THE LEGISLATURE.—On March 22 the Provincial Legislature was opened by His Honor Lieut.-Governor Jetté, with the customary ceremonies. Nearly every member of both sides of the House was present, as well as many prominent citizens. As the speech from the Throne was a rather meagre affair, and the Opposition is practically nil, it is predicted that the session will be a very short one, probably four or five weeks. The opening of the House affords a welcome break in the monotony of our long and severe winter. The influx of our law-makers as well as others having business at the House has caused quite a stir, and many of the hotels are well filled.

MONUMENT TO MGR. LAVAL.—A movement has been set on foot for some years past to erect a monument to perpetuate the memory of Mgr. Laval, the first Bishop of Canada. The idea originated, like so many other noble ones, with the St. Jean Baptiste Society of this city. Among the members of the committee entrusted with carrying out the project are Mgr. Marois, V.G., the Rector of Laval University; His Honor the Lieut.-Governor, the Hon. Prime Minister, the pastors of the city Churches, etc. It has been decided to enlist the co-operation of all the Catholic benevolent associations in the work. A call will soon be made to all those willing to help, and there is little doubt but that the response will be a generous one.

CHURCH MUSIC.—Mgr. Marois, Administrator of the Archdiocese, has addressed a letter to Mgr. Laflamme, suggesting the formation of a commission of competent ecclesiastics and laymen to enquire into the best means of carrying out the instructions of the Holy Father regarding the reorganization of Church choirs, and to report to His Grace Mgr. Begin on his return from Europe. Mgr. Laflamme has been requested to assume the direction of the investigation.

ST. SAUVEUR CHURCH.—Fr.

parations on an extensive scale are being made in St. Sauveur parish to fittingly celebrate in April the 50th anniversary of the advent of the Oblate Fathers to the parish. This Church is one of the finest in the city, and has recently been further adorned by some costly and handsome presents given as jubilee gifts. The celebration was to have taken place last fall, but on account of the labor troubles then existing and other causes it was postponed until April.

EASTER COMMUNION.—On Easter Sunday the different societies connected with St. Patrick's Church will receive Holy Communion in a body at the eight o'clock Mass. They will assemble in Tara Hall and march to the Church. It is a most edifying sight to see so many men approach the Holy Table in a body. This has been done for several years past.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING.—There is much dissatisfaction among citizens whose premises are lighted by electricity at the action of the companies in abolishing the flat rate system and obliging all consumers to rent a meter, for which they charge a rental of 25 cents per month. It is claimed by the companies that the meters represent a large amount of capital, from which they would receive no return if they did not charge a rental, but they will not sell a meter. Consumers, on the other hand, claim that the grocer might with equal justice charge for the use of his weights and scales or the dry goods man for the use of his yard-stick. Quite a number have signified their intention of going back to the old coal oil lamp rather than pay what they consider an outrageous charge. It is expected that many more will fall into line.

LOCAL NOTES.

ST. ANN'S.—On Easter Sunday at 10 a.m., Rev. Father Caron, C.S.S.R. (rector), will officiate, assisted by deacon and sub-deacon. Prof. P. J. Shea, organist and musical director, and a choir of sixty male voices, will render a specially prepared musical programme suitable to the occasion, the soloists being Master Eddie Ryan Messrs. Wm. Murphy, Jno. Whitty,

Frank McCrory and Ed. Quinn.

In the evening at 7.15, Rosary, sermon, with Benediction, as follows: Cor Jesu (harmonized) Gregorian; Et Resurrexit, Kalliwoda; Regina Coeli (trio and chorus); Boelman; soloists, Messrs. Wm. Murphy, J. Whitty and Ed. Quinn; Tantum Ergo, Wagner; Grand Choir; Laudate Dominum, Piet, Choir; Organ sortie, Hallelujah (Messias), Handel.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.—The choir of St. Mary's (corner Craig and Papez) assisted by an efficient orchestra, at High Mass (10.30 a.m.) will render Stearn's Mass in D. At the Offertory, Wilson's Regina Coeli, solo and chorus, soloist Mr. W. Kelly. Soloists for the Mass:—1st tenors, Messrs W. Kelly, P. Phelan, Geo and L. Prevost; 2nd tenors, A. and J. Emblem; basses, J. Chambers and T. C. Emblem. In the evening at 7.30, closing of men's Mission, sermon and Grand Benediction, during which the following music will be sung: Chorus, Cor. Jesu; duett, Weigand's O Salutaris, T. C. and A. Emblem; Van Bree's Tantum Ergo and Wilson's Laudate Dominum. Leader of Orchestra, Prof. Wm. Sullivan; conductor, Mr. T. C. Emblem; organist and musical director, Prof. Jas. Wilson.

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE.—Rev. Gerald McShane, S.S., will deliver a lecture on "Venice, the Home of Pius X.," in St. Mary's Church hall on Easter Monday evening. The lecture will be illustrated by 100 lime-light views.

ST. PATRICK'S CADETS.—The boys will hold an entertainment on April 15, in the Victoria Armoury Hall, Cathcart street. The proceeds are intended to defray the expense of organizing a bugle band. Rev. P. Heffernan and a number of gentlemen who have been manifesting an enthusiastic interest in the boys are arranging the programme in conjunction with a committee of the Cadets. The object is most worthy, and we sincerely hope the entertainment will be well patronized. Rev. Martin Callaghan, P.P. St. Patrick's, one of the organizers of the Cadets, is much interested in the undertaking.

LOURDES.

A Bordeaux paper states that the French Government will try to close the Grotto of Lourdes and to prohibit pilgrimages.

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