

PASTORAL LETTER

FROM ARCHBISHOP FABRE

REGARDING THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS OF THE DIOCESE WHICH MEETS HERE APRIL 28.

A pastoral letter and mandement, addressed by His Grace, the Archbishop of Montreal, to the regular and secular clergy, to the religious communities and to all the faithful, was read in all the Catholic churches of the archdiocese at Grand Mass on Sunday last.

In this letter, His Grace speaks of the government of the church. It is the Bishop's function to govern his particular diocese; but besides this, the episcopacy resolves itself into Councils to destroy heresy, to uproot schisms, to reform abuses when vigorous, prompt and efficacious measures are required; and in this the hierarchy acts in preconcerted movement. These Councils are necessary when it is incumbent to make Catholic truths shine more clearly, or to re-establish rights which are unknown or denied.

The Pope generally calls these Councils of the Bishops and Prelates of the Church, and they have thus assembled nineteen times since the Christian Era; they are the Ecumenical Councils.

However, it is only in most urgent times that it is necessary to call all the Bishops of the world together. Therefore the Church has granted to the College of Bishops the right to meet in particular Councils, which are composed only of the Archbishops and Bishops of a nation, or which may be formed by the Bishops of an ecclesiastical province, convened by the Metropolitan. At these national or provincial councils only the Bishops have a right to deliberate and vote; the clergy can only be called to give their views.

Particular councils date back to the commencement of the Christian era. That of Jerusalem has left to the church the Credo which Catholics of all ages have always repeated as a formula of their faith. These councils were held at rare intervals at first, but several have been held, amongst the most famous of which are those of Italy, Africa, Spain, France, England and Germany.

The Metropolis of Montreal will also have a Council. It will be held on April 28; this is the first that has ever taken place here. "This remarkable event," quotes the letter, "carries us back to the past, and shows us the religious development of the country. Seventy years ago, Canada had only one Episcopal seat, that of Quebec. To-day Canada has seven Archbishops and more than twenty Bishops, governed by Bishops in the Valley of the St. Lawrence, in Ontario, in the Maritime Provinces, in the Northwest Territories and the Rocky Mountains, and in British Columbia. To speak only of the Diocese of Montreal, it has received its share of divine favor. Detached from the Diocese of Quebec in 1836, it has developed in a most extraordinary manner ever since. It has been dismembered several times; the Diocese of Ottawa was formed in 1846, and on June 8, 1852, the Diocese of St. Hyacinthe was also formed.

"On June 8, 1886, Rome made this diocese an archdiocese, giving as suffragan dioceses to the new metropolis, the bishoprics of St. Hyacinthe and of Sherbrooke.

"In April, 1892, the diocese of Valleyfield was erected. These protect a vast territory and a large population of faithful."

The first Provincial Council of Montreal comes at an opportune moment. "At this Council some of the great social questions of the day, which so interest us, and to which the Church cannot be a stranger, will be studied and treated according to the admirable, forcible and clear teachings which the Sovereign Pontiff, who actually presided over the destinies of the Catholic world, has never ceased to give since the beginning of his reign."

The pastoral letter then continues to give some other reasons for the holding of the Council:

"The Bishops shall do all they can to ensure the salvation of souls, the observation of divine laws, the respect of ecclesiastical dignity, the holiness of priests, the perfection of religious persons, the development of educational endeavors, in a word, the well-being of religion in public life, as well as in private and domestic life."

Therefore, in order that the delibera-

tions of the Council bear good fruit, it has been decreed by His Grace, with the advice of the canons of the metropolis, that:

1. At the sacrifice of the Mass the priests shall say the prayer of the Holy Ghost.

2. The three Sundays preceding the holding of the Council and the day of the opening of the session, the "Veni Creator" shall be sung before Grand Mass in all the Roman Catholic Churches.

3. Every Thursday, during the month of April, the Mass of the Holy Ghost will be sung in the Metropolitan Church.

4. Every day during the month of April and during the sessions of the Council, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed all day in all communities of women, and in the evening there will be solemn Benediction. (These communities will receive notice of the day when each will have to conform to this paragraph of the decree.)

5. The cures and rectors of churches shall ask the faithful to say special prayers and to mortify themselves.

(Signed) EDOUARD CHS.

Arch. of Montreal.

By order of His Grace.

(Signed) ALFRED ARCHAMBAULT,
Chancellor.

C. M. B. A.

GRAND COUNCIL OF QUEBEC.

SOCIAL AND BANQUET OF ADVISORY COUNCIL.

One of the most enjoyable events of the season was given under the auspices of the Advisory Council, in the Queen's Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 12th inst., at which over 200 persons were present.

Excellent music was provided for the occasion and dancing was kept up until midnight, at which hour the dining-room was thrown open. The guests entered and sat down to dinner, which was supplied by Mr. E. T. Dixon, caterer, in his usual grand style.

During the intermission short speeches were delivered by Grand President P. O'Reilly, P. McDermott, President Advisory Council, and Grand First Vice President C. E. Leclerc.

Recitations and songs were given by Bro. P. Morninge and others. Bro. J. A. U. Beaudry presided at the piano. Dancing was now resumed and all heartily enjoyed themselves; one and all were highly pleased with this the first social under the auspices of the Advisory Council.

Amongst the guests present were noticed: Grand President P. O'Reilly, Mrs. O'Reilly and Miss O'Reilly; Grand first Vice-President C. E. Leclerc, Mrs. Leclerc and ladies; Grand Treasurer A. R. Archambault, Mrs. Archambault and Misses Archambault; Messrs. J. P. Nugent, Supreme Deputy, and Miss Nugent; M. Phelan and Mrs. Phelan; Grand Deputy James Meek, Mrs. Meek and Mrs. Light; J. D. Quinn and Mrs. Quinn; H. Butler and Miss Butler; W. J. Innes, Mrs. and Miss Innes; John Lappin and Miss Lappin; Joseph McLaughlin and Mrs. McLaughlin; P. F. McCaffrey and Mrs. McCaffrey and the Misses Dwyer; John Scanlan and ladies; F. McCann and the Misses McCann; E. Laurendeau and Miss A. O'Loughlin, Toronto; E. A. McCurdy and Miss Millen; A. H. Newman and Miss M. McCann; Mr. T. Donahue and Miss K. Innes; Mr. P. Donahue and Miss L. Innes; Mr. H. Ryan and Miss Dwyer; J. P. Grace and ladies; Jas. O'Farrell and ladies; P. McDermott, jr.; J. A. U. Beaudry, F. Pare, jr.; P. Morninge, F. C. Lawlor, J. L. Jensen, R. Walsh, J. Halpin, P. Phelan, J. Curran, T. Coggins, Doctors Kennedy, Ricard and Fitzpatrick.

CONCERT OF BRANCH 226.

A fair sized audience assembled in the Town hall of St. Henri to honor Branch 226 C. M. B. A. of Cote St. Paul on the occasion of the celebration of its first anniversary. President A. T. Martin occupied the chair. Amongst the invited guests present were the Rev. Father Brault, pastor of Cote St. Paul; Rev. Father Donnelly, pastor of St. Anthony's, and other reverend fathers, as also representatives from the sister branches from the city. During the interval between the first and second part of the programme Rev. Father Donnelly delivered an address, in the course of which he gave the history of the association, the necessity of such organizations, the good it had done and was still doing. The St. Cecilia orchestra played two

selections during the evening. Miss Hollinshead sang "When the Heart is Young," "Of Thee I am Thinking," and had to respond to a hearty encore. Mrs. Tigh's, late of Salem, Mass., singing was heartily applauded, as was also a solo given by Miss M. Daignault. Miss May Milloy gave a recitation with her well known ability. The piano solo by Miss McGreevey, as also the concertina solos by Mr. Gray, were both greeted with applause. The gentlemen who took part were Mr. J. A. Payette, who possesses a powerful baritone voice which was heard to advantage, especially in his duet with Miss Hollinshead, "Holy Mother Guide His Footsteps"; Mr. J. J. Rowan, who sang "The Beautiful Girl of Kildare," and Mr. J. Tremblay, both met with a hearty reception. The musical programme was under the direction of Vice-President F. X. Payette, who deserves much praise for the manner in which everything was carried out. The evening was brought to a close by the presentation of the farce, "The Secret, or the Hole in the Wall," by the Iona Dramatic club, and in which Messrs. L. C. O'Brien, W. P. Doyle, W. E. Wall, J. Bolger, W. Corcoran and T. M. Cullen distinguished themselves.

C.M.B.A., GRAND COUNCIL OF QUEBEC.

At a special meeting of the Advisory Council, held on the 3rd instant, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Moved by Grand President P. O'Reilly, seconded by Grand Deputy James Meek and Bro. Doctor A. Ricard, and

Resolved,—Whereas, this Council has learned with the deepest regret of the death of the wife of Past President J. O. Bedard, the members of this Council, now in session, do extend their heartfelt sympathy to him in his bereavement, and in doing so, we pray that God may bless him with grace to bear up in his sad affliction, and humbly submit to His Divine will.

And that the secretary be instructed to send a copy of this resolution to our bereaved brother, and have the same published.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

The Farnham Branch, No. 7, C.M.B.A. Grand Council of Quebec, held a meeting in their hall at Farnham, at which the officers for the ensuing year were installed, by Chancellor P. A. D'Artois, Medical Supervisor. The following officers were installed:—President, J. E. Campbell; 1st Vice-President, F. R. Labonte; 2nd Vice-President, F. Richard; Treasurer, J. B. Nadeau; Recording Secretary, L. A. Beriau; Assistant-Secretary, M. P. Kelley; Marshal, Jos. Croteau; Guard, L. Barriere; Trustees, L.E.S. Choquette and Donahue.

There was a pleasant gathering of the members of Branch No. 9, C.M.B.A., at 118 Notre Dame Street, the other evening, the occasion being a double presentation. Mr. H. Butler, who is retiring from the trusteeship of the Branch, being presented with a gold-mounted cane as a token of respect by the members of the Association. The other recipient was Mr. R. Walsh, who got a gold ring for services rendered. A pleasant hour of music, song and speech followed.

A NEW FIRM.

We learn with pleasure that Messrs. Wall, Stewart & Co., have opened out their new paint and oil business establishment at 33 Bleury street. The firm is composed of young and enterprising citizens, and we certainly wish them every manner of success in their future. If any persons deserve public encouragement they surely are the young men who are commencing to walk the busy highway of commerce. There is no branch of our industries that requires more attention and careful management than that of paints and oils, and we are confident that the public will always meet with satisfaction at the hands of Messrs. Wall, Stewart & Co.

TRUTH SOCIETY.—The monthly meeting of the Catholic Truth Society took place in the hall under the Gesù, on Friday evening last. There was a good attendance, particularly of ladies. The readings comprised an article translated from the Revue des deux Mondes, a continuation of the readings of Dr. Bilsborough's theological works and other subjects.

AN ENGLISH CATHOLIC'S OPINION.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

DEAR SIR,—If you will kindly allow me the space, I wish to make a few remarks, in reference to an editorial which appears in your last issue. I allude to the article which treats of the education of the English in the cities and towns of England. As an Englishman, born, reared, and educated in an English provincial town, I emphatically protest against such unjust remarks being applied to my countrymen. It is a well known fact, and cannot be denied, that the standard of education amongst the working classes of England is equal, if not superior, to that of other nations, and especially so in connection with history, there being few Englishmen who cannot give you, from memory, the leading facts in the history of their country, from the time of the ancient Druids until the present time, not forgetting William the Conqueror, who, by the way, was not a Saxon King, as we are led to infer by the article in question.

In the same issue of your paper I notice an article censuring a certain Montreal daily for publishing in its columns a serial story which pictures the Irish character in a totally false and unjust manner. Now, in my opinion, Mr. Editor, you have done the same thing in regard to the English as the author of the story has done to the Irish, or in other words, while removing the moat from your brother's eye you have entirely overlooked the beam in your own eye. In subscribing to a Catholic journal, which is supposed to be devoted to the English speaking Catholics of this Dominion, and of Montreal in particular, I little expected to meet such an unprovoked attack on the qualifications of the English race, an attack, Mr. Editor, as unjust as it is untrue.

ENGLISH CATHOLIC.

Feb. 18th, 1895.

[We regret that "English Catholic" does not accept our expressions in the spirit in which they are given; but we none the less admire his patriotism. Granting him all possible credit for his sincerity we only beg the benefit of the same concession in our favor. We are glad to learn that the standard of education amongst the English working classes is equal, if not superior, to that of other nations. It has not been our experience, but we probably are not competent to appreciate their standard. It is a rule that correspondents should give their names if they expect to have their letters published. But in this case we make an exception, as the editor is the target, and he is desirous of granting "British fair play" to every one.—Ed. T. W.]

DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE.—The members of St. Patrick's L. & B. Association are making great progress in their preparations for the forthcoming St. Patrick's Day performance which is to be given in the Queen's theatre. The drama of their selection is entitled "Captain Jack," and is considered equal in literary and dramatic quality with the celebrated drama the "Shamrock and Rose." The dramatic section of this Association is one of the best in the city, and their splendid delineation of "The Shamrock and Rose" last year, at the Queen's Theatre, earned for their talents well merited appreciation which will not fail to attract a large audience to their performance on the coming St. Patrick's Night.

ST. MARY'S YOUNG MEN.—St. Mary's Young Men are working energetically for the success of their first annual concert, which is to take place in their hall underneath the church, on Shrove Tuesday, the 26th inst. Some of the best singers of the city have promised to place their talents at the disposal of the society for the evening, and everything augurs that the concert will be a great success. At the close of the concert the young men will present a laughable farce entitled "A Sea of Trouble."

SMOKING CONCERT.—The members of Dominion Assembly K. of L. 2436 will give a smoking concert in their hall, 662½ Craig street, on Friday evening next, 22nd inst. Some of the best local talent has been engaged for the occasion and a very enjoyable evening's entertainment may be expected.

She—"Am I the first woman you ever loved?" He—"Yes. Am I the first man who ever loved you?" She (tempestuously)—"You are insulting."