

umber 15, 1900
LIMITED.
t. James Street,
December 15

The True Witness

Vol. L, No. 24

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1900.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Xmas.

is acceptable
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se, Silk, Linen
best makers in

Gowns.

A very pretty lot of
Gowns specially
ported for Xmas
reds; drop in and see
them.

Ladies' exquisite
Lashmere Tea Gowns
in blue, trimmed
lawn, lace, fancy
collars and cuffs, full
skirt, in pretty shades
Red, Pink and
Blue \$3.25

NOVELTIES.

"Kathleen" Ladies'
Fine 2 Dome Kid
gloves in new shades
of tan, brown, gray,
navy, purple, navy,
black and white fancy
ilk points
Special 73c
"Tant Meux" Ladies
gloves quality 7 hook
Kid Gloves in all the
leading shades, per-
fect fitting
Special 90c
"Le Rabant" Ladies'
Lace French Kid
gloves, 2 dome fas-
tener, in all the latest
novelty shades, with
sides
Special \$1.25

TOYS!

best display of

coming with Toys,
description.

Regular Special
..... 15c 10c
..... 6c 35c
..... 10c 5c
..... 35c 20c
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CATALOGUE.

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Street, Montreal.

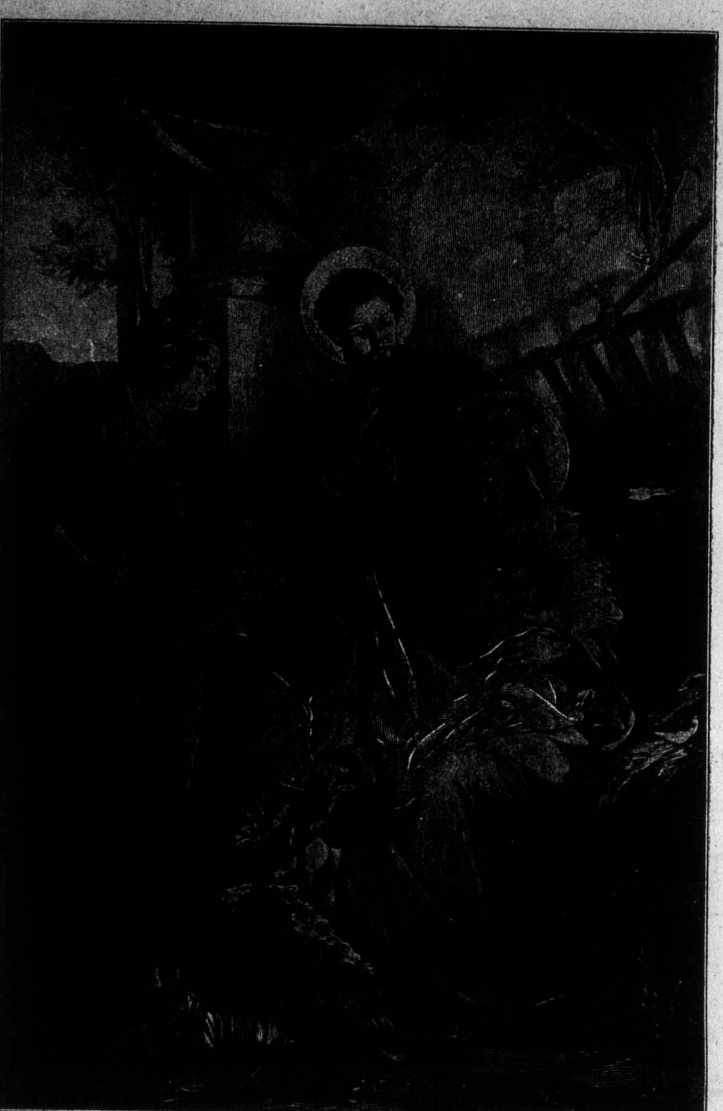
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BIRTH OF CHRIST.

OUR CURBSTONE OBSERVER

ON CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS.

I have always been an "observer;" long before the "True Witness" kindly allowed me to occupy space for the publication of my observations; especially at certain stated periods of the year have I been accustomed to note the changes that time works amongst men. Christmas was always the principal one of these occasions. I do not wish to be misunderstood when I say that I have always a species of dread when Christmas comes. I love it; like all others I rejoice in it; but I fear it, and I am glad, I feel a sense of relief when it has passed away. For me it has ever been a time of reflection as well as of observation; and my reflections have generally been sad, and my observations always depressing. I repeat that this does not in any way apply to Christmas in the religious sense.

When Christmas eve comes I recall the Christmas eve that have gone, and that can never return. Do I regret them? Yes, and no. I regret some of them; for they were so happy, so free of care, so full of promise.

"Life's morning march,
When my bosom was young."

Others I do not regret; I would not, for worlds, recall them; they were sad in the extreme, they were devoid of the sweet associations that make such festivals really enjoyable. As I look back, it is with a melancholy pleasure that I conjure up the many Christmas eves of yore, when we made such great preparations to go to Midnight Mass. We had a long drive ahead of us; it was always bitter cold in those days—just as an ideal Christmas should be—and the country road to the village church was long. But the big sleighs, and the great buffalo robes, and the merry bells, and the jingling voices and the pealing laughter, and the flying horses, and the drifting snow, were all so merry!

Yes, it is pleasant to sit alone and live over those Christmas eves.

hungry, joyless creatures, who come to look in at what they can never approach, and whose souls must feel keenly the bitter contrast between their own misery and the happiness of the fortunate ones.

Christmas is at hand, and the number of the poor and desolate is very, very great. There is many a Christmas dinner that consists of little more than dry bread, or cold porridge; there is many a Christmas home that knows no "tree," that has not even the fire necessary to keep the shivering ones from suffering. It seems to me that we could sweeten our own luxuries, add a fagot to our own hearth-fire, by assisting some of the very poor. Remember that if our Christmas be merry there are thousands, equally as good and as deserving as ourselves, whose Christmas must be sad, and, in many cases, miserable. Possibly they spend the Christmas eve in a manner more nearly approaching that of Bethlehem; but this all depends upon the spirit in which they accept their trials.

I have also observed that Christmas is too often an occasion for over-indulgence in drink. Amongst the wealthy the seriousness of the day is forgotten in the fumes of old Pomme; amongst the middle classes the great event is made subservient to the minor one of a holiday—and the holiday too often means incapacity for work on the next day; amongst the really poor, in more cases than should be, Christmas is an occasion of oblivion, forgetfulness, brought on by a superabundance of square black and round white bottles. Invariably when this method of celebrating Christmas is selected, have I observed that the rules which were laid down by Our Lord are ignored. This will be the last Christmas of the century, for more than one of those who read this paper, it will be the last Christmas on earth. Next year will bring its own sorrows and troubles; its own joys and blessings. I hope that when Xmas 1901 dawns upon the world there will be no vacant chair in any family amongst us, I also hope that prosperity may attend the "True Witness," and all connected with it. Such is my triple greeting to all members of the same holy religious fold, to all friends of the great cause of truth and justice, to all Canadians, no matter what their race or creed and finally, to all my fellow-countrymen throughout this fair Dominion.

HAPPENINGS IN IRELAND.

ABOUT UNITY.—Speaking at a monster demonstration in Galway, Mr. John Dillon, M.P., thus referred to the question of unity in the ranks of the Irish Party. He said:—
What the country demands and what the Irish race demands throughout the world is that in the new party, be it large or small, whatever be its numbers, there may be unity. How can the country ever expect to have unity if they constitute the party of the friends and foes to the League. On the very day on which you made the new party you would have two camps, friends and foes, of the League. Therefore, I say, this question must be decided, not by any individual—I claim no right to decide it—but by the delegates of the people, on December 11th; and, if they are wise, and I must say that I have unlimited trust in the wisdom of the people, they will take care that at the start of the new party there is no element of discord, and that it is composed of the friends and supporters of the National organization. Give the party a fair start. Start the party on its new career, composed of friends and supporters of the United League, and you will have a united and harmonious party, which will figure for the people of Ireland in the House of Commons on the old lines. Let any man who likes stand outside that party. We make no objection to him; for I think that in time every honest Nationalist will see the wisdom of my contention. It is that if he wants to come into the Irish Party he ought to come in through the door of the United Irish League.

We want no enemies of the League planted in the heart of the party. With the enemies of the League in the party, what can the party do? You cannot say, "Well, if you admit that man into the party, and if he doesn't conduct himself you must put him out." That means to commence by fresh faction and fresh disorder. No; give us a United Party with an organized country behind it, and then you can call upon us to fight the battle of the people, with confidence, with courage, and with success. (Loud cheers.) Unless you give us a United Party, you cannot make that party of any use. Now, let me use one other argument in favor of the League and the united Parliamentary work of the League. For 20 years, or nearly ten years, we have received no assistance from one people in the United States, in Canada, nor in Australia or the New Zealand. But what did you observe during the last year? According as the United Irish League Organization spread through Ireland, the first time in ten years the people in the United States, in Australia, and even in South Africa, have been sending again large sums of money to support the National cause—(cheers)—and if the people of Ireland stand by the League and show that they are ready to have junction and unity in the National ranks, I can promise you that even from afar the millions of our race abroad will renew that financial assistance to the National cause, and that settlement in order to go on.

You here in Ulster at the present moment want almost more than any part of Ireland union and organization; for what did I see in the last return of evictions in Ireland? Why, I saw that in this province alone the number of evictions was nearly three times as great as in the remainder of Ireland. And remember this, when we settle the land question we want it settled for everyone. We will not consent to have any final settlement until the evicted tenants are reinstated, nor will we consent to any settlement as final and satisfactory which leaves evicted tenants, numbering fifty or sixty thousand, in Ireland at the mercy of the landlord. Every man will have to get a fair settlement in his own home, and that settlement in order to be satisfactory must be based on such a price as will enable the tenant to flourish on his own land. And don't forget this. It is one of the most important points. It is all very well to talk about compulsory sale, but who is going to settle the price? You may find the landlord walk off with twenty years' purchase, or twenty-five, and the tenant left with a burden which will, in the long run, break his back. Therefore, you must have a strong organization to watch this settlement and see that the people flourish and do well on their own land.

CRUSADE AGAINST LANDLORDS.—At times when least expected, and from quarters undreamed of, frequently come forth men whose own power and influence carry them to the front rank amongst leaders; all is due to the circumstances. It is with no small degree of anxiety that some, and of anticipation that others, now speculate upon what the near future may bring forth in regard to the public career of Mr. T. W. Russell—"T. W."—as he is called—the member for South Tyrone. As we are not in a position to form a very exact estimate of the situation in Ireland, as far as Mr. Russell is concerned, we will make use of a few quotations from our contemporaries. One of these speaking editorially, says—
"Mr. T. W. Russell continues his campaign in Ulster with considerable vigor. Speaking at Cookstown,

not be particularized here the citizen of Montreal may pardonably be proud of his beautiful city of Ville-Marie.

Prof. J. A. Fowler, of St. Patrick's choir, has given to the Catholic choirs of this continent a number of original Masses, Ave Marias, and other hymns, which have made his name deservedly famous. Now, we have to chronicle, with great pleasure, and in a spirit of sincere congratulation, the fact that Prof. James Wilson, of the Irish Catholic Church of St. Mary's, has completed the composition of his second Mass, which is in many respects superior to his first Mass, excellent as that undoubtedly was.

On Tuesday evening we were afforded an opportunity of listening to a rehearsal, so to speak, of Prof. Wilson's new work, although some of the members of the choir were unavoidably absent, thus preventing a full rendition of the Mass, we were able to realize that a Mass which is evidently destined to become popular amongst the Catholic choirs, has been composed by the talented organist of St. Mary's. It will be given for the first time, with full orchestral effect, at the Midnight service on Christmas Eve; and will shortly, we hope, be published as a musical volume.

The "Kyrie," which contains a bass solo, is, as it should be, in a supplicating strain, and is rich and massive in effect. The opening of the "Gloria" is exceedingly fine. It abounds with solos, duets and trios, which are replete with beautiful passages that border upon, if they do not actually touch the classical. In the "Credo," the "Genitum" opens with a second tenor solo and closes with a trio; and the "Et incarnatus" starts with a tenor solo. The "Crucifixus," a bass solo, appeared to us to possess special merit; and the same is to be said of the "Et Unam Sanctam." But the musical gem of the Mass, in our opinion, is the "Sanctus," which contains many passages of that devotional description which finds such favor in ecclesiastical circles. Full scope is given for male voices, for which the tonal compass has been admirably arranged, and the general effect is consequently beautiful. No less deserving of laudatory mention is the "Agnus Dei."

The whole work is a notable one, and is certain to win golden opinions, and it is to be hoped, golden results, too, for its gifted author. That Prof. Wilson should have devoted his spare time to the composition of a work of such importance and merit, speaks volumes for his unselfish devotion to the art of which he is so talented an exponent.

NOTES FROM ROME.

LEO XIII. AND THE CHILDREN.—If there is one characteristic, more than another, remarkable in Leo XIII. it is his love for children. In this, as in every other phase of his wonderful personality, the Pope resembles His Divine Master. Touching indeed are the accounts given of his receptions of school children during the Holy Year. The following is one of them:—
One of the most impressive receptions of the whole "Anno Santo" took place on Thursday last, when Leo XIII. entered St. Peter's and received the devout homage of nearly 15,000 children belonging to the Catholic schools of Rome. It was a most touching spectacle to see the little ones cheering, as the Pope slowly passed up the central aisle in their midst, pausing every now and then to pat a curly head or to bless a group of children that pressed forward most eagerly than the rest, addressing kind words of praise and encouragement to the teachers, and smiling on the surging crowd of little ones. Besides the school children, all the pupils of the different colleges and seminaries were present, including those of the English, Irish, Scotch, and North American Colleges, together with their rectors, so that the whole scholastic population of Catholic Rome may be said to have been assembled under the dome of St. Peter's. The Holy Father, in bestowing Apostolic Benediction on the kneeling thousands before him, was visibly moved, and afterwards remarked to Mgr. Samminiellotti that no function of the Jubilee Year had given him greater consolation than the spontaneous and imposing act of homage on the part of those youthful hopes of the Church.

A BEATIFICATION.—The Holy Father presided over a general meeting of the Sacred Congregation of Rites on Tuesday last, when the cause of beatification of the venerable servant of God, Joseph Cottolengo founder of the "Little House of Divine Providence" in Turin, was discussed.

PRIVATE AUDIENCES.—Most Rev. John Lyster, Bishop of Achuar, Right Rev. Bernard McQuaid, Bishop of Rochester, and Mgr. Francis Cloutier, Bishop of Trois Rivières, are in Rome, and have been received in private audience by the Pope.

PROF. WILSON'S NEW MASS.

Montreal holds a unique position on this continent in more respects than one. It is the most truly and practically Catholic city in America. It contains a Catholic Church—that of Notre Dame—which holds more people than any other sacred edifice in America. It has the largest Catholic Seminary in America. And the Irish Catholic choir-masters have given to the world more original sacred music, and that of a high order of genuine artistic merit, than those connected with any other church in any other city on the American continent. On those as well as on many other grounds that need