

The Press And Its Value To Religion And Nationality.

(By an Occasional Contributor.)

Within the last year or so we have noticed one striking feature in our French-Canadian press; and it is becoming weekly more pronounced. It is admirable; it is calculated to do immense good; it is an evidence of progress as well as of enthusiasm and a knowledge of the growing requirements of the hour.

It is not the mere fact of giving special cuts on the front page of a large edition that attracts our attention, it is the subject-matter of such cuts. They take a parish, wherein some great feast has been celebrated, as that of Nicolet, two weeks ago; or they take some French-Canadian settlement, either in the north or in the northwest, as that of Edmonton, in a recent issue of "La Presse," they frame in the cuts of the Church, the presbytery, the schools, the principal places of business, or the leading residences, with the portraits of the missionary priests, the leading citizens, the mayor and council, the professional, business, or trades people, the officers of national or religious societies; and then they interlard the entire surface of the page with accounts of the place, histories in miniature, biographies of the personages represented in the cuts, and finally comments upon the advantages afforded by the locality, for colonization, settlement or trade.

By this means, and by the dint of keeping it up, from week to week during the year, they are gradually bringing in a forcible manner the story of the French-Canadian people, their struggles, their aims, their strength, their successes, and awakening in their minds their possibilities in this country. It is only within a recent period that this plan has been adopted; but it is a propaganda that must bear good results so far as that race is concerned.

In Canada and in the United States we have had examples beyond enumeration of the special advantages to be derived by the free use of the columns of the press, political, commercial and social; how private and semi-private commercial and financial undertakings, and even public projects have been brought to a successful issue by the support of the press; how individuals have attained positions in public affairs, and every other walk of life, which they could have never attained without the liberal use of printer's ink.

When will Irish Catholics and Catholics speaking English in Canada, realize the full significance of the advantages of publicity? When will they learn the lesson of uniting in common aims by using their own press in making their undertakings in their parishes—churches and schools and other institutions—known?

Had our people unitedly given exclusive support to the "True Witness" and published their doings in religious, national, charitable, educational, social, commercial undertakings, it would ere now have been one of the foremost daily newspapers of Canada.

True it is that pastors and curates of parishes have spoken from their pulpits in eloquent terms of the old organ and have made appeals for financial support for it, but in few instances have our priests in city and country parishes devoted five minutes each week to jotting down a few items of happenings in their districts or of their aims and ambitions. True it is that devoted laymen in our national and religious societies have spoken words of encouragement to our editor, but how often have they devoted a few minutes each week to pen a few lines re-

garding the work of their organizations. Very often we notice items of news concerning the movements of our clergy, the undertakings of our parishes and the doings of national and religious societies, published in the Protestant press which has time and time again shown most bitter antagonism to the Catholic Church.

It is time that there should be a change in the attitude of Catholic Irishmen and all Catholics speaking the English language in Canada, in this regard.

And when that hour dawns, our people will realize the advantages that are to be gained by supporting a loyal Catholic press.

Send the news of your parish-doenings members of the clergy, and let men and women interested in our schools, religious, fraternal and national societies do the same, and the old organ will prosper as it deserves. D. A.

AN ANGLER'S STORY.

Just beside where the fish was rising there was a small bit of alder and I had seen a fly light on this alder and then drop on the water to be at once gorged by our fish. I put on a good lively fly and wound in my line until only the leader was at the point of my rod. I then crawled on my hands and knees until I came to the alder bush. I held up my rod and fluttered my fly and then let it drop on the alder bush. The next move was to gently lift it and then let it drop on the water. The trick was done and in three minutes I had a two and one-half pound trout in my landing net.

A HOME FOR CATHOLIC SETTLERS

(Special to the True Witness.)

O'Neill, Neb., June 19, 1903.

Letters come to me from time to time from persons in different parts of the United States and Canada, asking information about this portion of Nebraska. I will appreciate it very much if you will kindly publish this letter in your newspaper, and thereby convey to many persons who are thinking of changing their location some information that may be of value to them.

A matter of importance in securing a new home with every Catholic and which should be a matter of supreme importance is the Church and school facilities. We have here a good Catholic Church, and there are four others in the county. The country surrounding O'Neill is settled principally by Catholics and most of the business of the town is in the hands of our people. We have a convent school which has been running for about three years. The building cost in the neighborhood of \$60,000, and more than two hundred and fifty children are being educated there. It is conceded by all who know it to be one of the finest schools in the west.

A person cannot get a correct idea of any country without actually visiting it. But it can be said truthfully that this is an excellent country for raising live stock. I am reliably informed that more hay is produced in this county than in any other county in the United States. In addition to this we have plenty of fine pasture land. Much of the land is also good for farming and the people generally are doing well. There is still an opportunity to secure good homes here at a very reasonable price.

In a business way there is an opening here for a flour mill, a steam laundry, an electric light plant and a commercial hotel.

Yours very respectfully, M. F. CASSIDY, Parish priest.

THE OLD STORY.

It seems passing strange that Catholics should be so indifferent in regard to the payment of their annual subscription. An exchange says:

In the last two months we got off our lists a certain number of subscribers that were a burden to us. Now that we are dealing with reasonable people only we have this word to say to those in arrears: When you are paying this month your subscription for 1903, or for 1902 and 1903 pay at the same time for 1904, for we shall send the 1904 number only to subscribers who have paid in advance.

"THE IRISH BRIGADE."

BY "CRUX."

SINCE last week I received a request from a gentleman in Ontario, to not close this series of references, or quotations, from the works of Davis, without letting the readers have the advantage of reading the historical sketch of the Irish Brigade by that author. It is known to all who are familiar with the poems of the Nation that Davis has based several of his ballads upon events associated with the Brigade. Amongst others we have "The Surprise of Cremona," "Clare's Dragoons," "Battle Eve of the Brigade," "The Battle of Fontenay;" and a number of others. His sketch of the Brigade was suggested to him, in 1844, by the necessity of lengthy foot notes to these different poems. In order to obviate this disjointed work, which he considered more cumbersome than otherwise when tacked on each poem, he concluded to unite all such notes in one essay, to stitch them together with passages calculated to make clearer their significance, and to publish once for all this compendium. It was only after varied research that I was enabled to get a copy of this essay, which fact leads me to believe that it is rarer than others of his writings. I found that it contained a fund of historical information of major importance. Therefore, as I am only writing, compiling, gleaned, or quoting for information sake, I will gladly comply with the Ontario gentleman's request and reproduce the essay as the "Irish Brigade." I must, however, state that it is impossible to give it entirely in one issue. I will attempt to cut it in two, but if I find that would still be an encroachment on space, I will cut it into three sections. It is as follows:

The foreign military achievements of the Irish began on their own account. They conquered and colonized Scotland, frequently overran England during and after the Roman dominion there, and more than once penetrated into Gaul. During the time of the Danish invasion, they had enough to do at home. The progress of the English conquest brought them again to battle on foreign ground. It is a melancholy fact, that in the brigades wherewith Edward I, ravaged Scotland, there were numbers of Irish and Welsh. Yet Scotland may be content; Wales and Ireland suffered from the same baseless. (I might here remark that Wales is very often mentioned by Davis, for the good reason that he was of Welsh extraction on his father's side.) The sacred heights of Snowdon, the Parnassus of Wales, were first forced by Gascon mountaineers, whose independence had perished; and the Scotch did no small share of blood-work for England here, from the time of Morro's defeats in the seventeenth century, to the Fenible victories over peasants in 1798.

In these levies of Edward I, as in those of his son, were numbers of native Irish. The Connaught clans in particular seem to have served these Plantagenets.

From Edward Bruce's invasion, the English control was so broken that the first clans ceased to serve altogether, and indeed, shortly after, made many of the Anglo-Irish pay them tribute. But the lords of the Pale took an active and prominent part in the wars of the Roses; and their vassals shared the victories, the defeats, and the carnage of the time.

In the continental wars of Edward III, and of Henry V., the Norman-Irish served with much distinction. Henry VIII. demanded of the Irish Government 2,000 men, 1,000 of whom were, if possible, to be gunners, i.e. armed with matchlocks. The services of these Irish during the short war in France, and especially at the siege of Boulogne, are well known.

At the submission of Ireland in 1603, O'Sullivan Bearra and some others excepted from the amnesty, took service and obtained high rank in Spain; and after the flight of O'Neill and O'Donnell in 1607, numbers of Irish crowded into all the continental services. We find them holding commissions in Spain, France, Austria and Italy.

Scattered among "Safford's Letters," various indications are discoverable of the esteem in which the Irish were held as soldiers in foreign

services during the early part of the seventeenth century. The Spanish Government seems to have been in particular extremely desirous of enlisting in Ireland, their own troops at that time being equal, if not superior to any in the world, especially their infantry.

Nor were the Irish troops less active for the English King. Strafford had increased the Irish army. These he paid regularly, clothed well, and frequently "drew out in large bodies." He meant to oppress, but discipline is a precious thing, no matter who teaches it—a Strafford or a Wellington; and during the wars which followed 1641 when the first row with the Scotch took place, Wentworth was able to send a garrison of 500 Irish to Carlisle, and other forces to assist Charles. And the victories of Montrose were owing to the valor and discipline of the Irish auxiliaries under Colkitto (left-hand) Alister MacDonnell. Many of the Irish who had lost their fortunes by the Cromwellian wars, served on the Continent.

Tyrconnell increased the Irish army, but with less judgment than Strafford. Indeed, numbers of his regiments were ill-officered mobs, and, when real work began in 1689, were disbanded as having neither arms nor discipline. His sending of his Irish troops to England hastened the Revolution by exciting jealousy, and they were too mere a handful to resist. They were forced to enter the service of German princes, especially the Prussian.

An account of the formation of the Irish Brigade, with the names and numbers of the regiments, etc., is here omitted, as the details were reserved for "The History of the Irish Brigade" which Davis was then preparing and which was to appear in the "Library of Ireland."

"The services of the Irish Brigade." What has been so far given is merely introductory, but is necessary in order to afford a clear idea of the Irish military history prior to the formation of the Brigade. Now we will have to do with the services of that phalanx. The year before the English Revolution of '88, William effected the league of Augsburg, and combined Spain, Italy, Holland, and the empire, against France; but, except some sieges of imperial towns, the war made no progress till 1690. In that year France blazed out ruin on all sides. The Palatinate was overrun and devastated.—The defeat of Humieres at Valcourt was overwhelmed by Luxembourg's great victory over Prince Waldeck at Fleurus. But, as yet, no Irish troops served north of the Alps. It was otherwise in Italy.

This brings us to the first Italian campaigns of the Irish. Then Davis tells of the wars in Flanders, and finally of the services of the Brigade in the wars of France. This makes it evident that I will be obliged to give this history in two more parts. I have an idea that many of the readers will be thankful to possess, in such a brief form, the splendid story of the Irish Brigade. Above all would I like that our boys and girls in our various schools could have an opportunity of reading these few numbers of the "True Witness"—they would learn a great deal of the glorious history of their race.

There is no sunshine for those who persist in keeping their shutters barred. Joy is not gained for the asking of it, but only by the acting for it.

Premium TO Subscribers.

We offer as a premium to each Subscriber a neatly bound copy of the Golden Jubilee Book, who will send the names and cash for 5 new Subscribers to the True Witness.

This is a splendid opportunity to obtain a most interesting chronicle of the work of Irish Catholics Priests and laymen in Montreal during the past Fifty years.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, June 23.

The week has been a slow one as far as the legislative work of the House of Commons is concerned. In the Senate a great amount of work was done, and two special features marked the early days of the week. Firstly, Hon. Senator L. O. David, City Clerk of Montreal, was introduced and took his seat. This leaves only one seat vacant, that of the late Hon. Senator O'Brien. It is rumored that the appointment of his successor will be made in a day or two, possibly before this letter is in press. The second unusual event in the Senate is in connection with the Gough divorce case. This case was referred to the committee on divorces and the committee reported that the case should be thrown out "because the both parties are Catholics, and according to the laws of the Catholic Church divorce is not allowed." This is a remarkable decision, and one that does credit to the good sense of the committee, while it reflects great honor upon the only Church that can stand up so strongly and consistently in defence of the marriage bond, that the law of the State bows before its dictation and decision.

So far not more than half the estimates are through; the supplementaries have not been touched; Mr. Blair's Railway Bill is only about two-thirds through; the Redistribution Bill has yet to be reported to the House; the questions of the Grand Trunk Pacific and of the Great Northern Railways have yet to be fully discussed; and the Opposition is evidently awaiting the return of Mr. Sifton, in order to get at him on his Yukon Territory estimates. This is the second session that Mr. Sifton has been away during the passage of his departmental supplies, and they do not seem in the humor to let him go scot free this time. He will reach Ottawa this week. Hence we have no idea how long the session will last. Next week, Dominion Day, will make a hole in the week, so that if the hot weather does not come to hunt the members away, they may be here till August.

Ottawa has lost, by death, one of its leading young Irish Catholics, in the person of Mr. Robert A. Starrs, son of ex-Alderman Michael Starrs. The deceased, who was 37 years of age, was for some years in the wholesale grocery business on Clarence street, and was for a long time a prominent figure in fraternal societies and other associations. He was formerly president of St. Patrick's Literary and Scientific Society, and occupied other offices of honor. Deceased was also an ardent Liberal, and took a lively interest in politics. Up to a short time previous to his death he was employed in the Census Department. The deceased was married and leaves a wife and three daughters to mourn his untimely demise. The youngest is nine years and the oldest fifteen. The widow is a daughter of the late James Bonfield, M.P.P., of Eganville, one of the leading lumbermen of the Ottawa valley.—R.I.P.

Ottawa has had many important visitors this week. Amongst them Mr. N. E. Carbonneau and Mr. O. Balsky, of Paris, who have come to interview the Government in connection with the establishment of a steamship service between France and Canada. Mr. C. M. Hays and Mr. Wm. Wainwright were here all week to interview the members of the Government in regard to the Grand Trunk Pacific. The matter was before the Cabinet last Saturday, but I learn that nothing definite was done. There will be a big fight over this Bill when it comes before the House, especially concerning the proposed subsidies.

On Sunday last at St. Patrick's Church, Ottawa, Rev. Father Whelan referred to the small attendance at the evening services at the church. He said that people went to Mass in the morning simply because they were compelled to under the pain of mortal sin, but that they refrained from attending the beautiful service of the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the evening. He drew attention to the fact that, only a short time ago the country was threatened with drought and serious consequences were feared. To help themselves they had knelt before the altar of God and prayed for rain. "God has answered our prayers," said the preacher, "we have had rain and our crops are safe. It is raining to-day and it rained several days

last week, but I noticed this morning that upwards of 200 children were absent from the children's Mass which is a regrettable fact. These same children had gone to school in the rain during the week simply because the promotion examinations were on, or because they had something to gain. He scored the parents for the neglect and claimed that they were mainly responsible. Rain would not hurt children," concluded the preacher, "and if they could go to school, they should surely be able to attend Mass."

At St. Bridget's Church on Sunday, Rev. Father Gagnon celebrated High Mass, and Rev. Father Schaeffer, of the Apostolic delegation, preached an eloquent sermon appropriate to the feast.

The Feast of the Sacred Heart, the patronal feast of the parish, was celebrated with appropriate solemnity in the Sacred Heart Church. The celebrant of the Mass was the pastor, Rev. Father Portelance, and the sermon an able one on "The Love of God," was preached by Rev. Father Lejeune. The choir, under the direction of Mr. Cramer, rendered beautiful music, the solos being well taken and the choral parts well sustained.

St. Jean Baptiste Church presented a touching sight on Sunday morning, when ninety-five children of the parish approached the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar for the first time. The altars were prettily decorated with natural flowers; the oratory of the Sacred Heart in particular, presented an inspiring sight with its wealth of sweet scented flowers and richly colored lights. The first communion ceremony took place at the quarter past eight Mass. Rev. Father Bourque, O.P., was celebrant, and administered the Blessed Sacrament to 48 little girls and 47 little boys.

The closing exercises of St. Joseph's School took place in the Academic hall of the Ottawa University, and the programme presented was a delightful one, and rewarded the parishioners for the interest they have taken in the school. Rev. Father Murphy presided, and there were present Rev. Fathers Niles, James Fallon, McGurty and Kirwin, and trustees Foran, who took charge of the distribution, McGuire, McGill, Sims, Kane and Daly and a large number of parents and friends of the pupils. The following numbers of an excellent programme interspersed the distribution of premiums in the several departments song "The Tin Whistle Band" boys of first classes; song, "Playmates," girls of first classes; song, "Tricentennial," boys of second classes; recitation (selected), Master George McHugh; song and drill, "Sea Shells," girls of second classes; chorus, "Music of the Birds" school. The "piece de resistance," was the operetta "Titania," which was well staged, the rising of the curtain being the signal for general applause on the part of the audience. The principal characters were Fairy Queen, Stella Foley; Fairy King, Robert Oliver; Mother Hazel, Florence Ryan; Tipitidwigot, Robt. Urquhart, and they played their parts well.

Owing to the number of subscribers to the "True Witness" in this district I subjoin the names of those who carried off the various medals.

Gold medal, presented by Mrs. M. P. Davis, for highest notes of the year, awarded to Annie Ainsborough.

Gold medal, presented by Mr. Wm. Foran, trustee to the girl obtaining the highest notes in the entrance examination 1902, awarded to Mary Teresa Redmond.

Gold medal, presented by Mr. McMillan, for highest notes in the entrance examination 1902, awarded to J. McCormac.

Gold medal, presented by Mrs. W. H. Davis, for highest notes of the year, awarded to Bertram Clarke.

Silver medal, presented by Dr. J. L. Chabot, for highest in the entrance examination 1902, on temperance and hygiene, awarded to Mary Teresa Redmond.

The prize list is too extensive for an ordinary correspondence.

A queer incident has taken place in Hull regarding a banner for the St. Jean Baptiste Society. The account of the facts may be thus briefly given:—

At the instance of the St. Jean Baptiste Society of Quebec city, Rev. Fathers Valiquette and Forget called a meeting in Notre Dame Hall, Hull, last Sunday night, to discuss the question of adopting the blue flag with the white diagonal cross and Sacred Heart emblem in the centre. As the blue, white and red is at present recognized as the French-Canadian ensign, and has been almost since the Fleur de Lis and Cross of the Bourbons abandoned in Canada in 1763, the feeling expressed, quietly but firmly, is not in favor of any change.

Our Curbston Observer On Friendsh

An article entitled "Friendship on the war" attracted my attention which drew attention awakens my mind and that leads to such thoughts. I have no intention of writing this question, but use it as a text to produce personal observations, accustomed to speak of tances as our friends of ten in a quandy how between the two. Yet distinction to be made.

ACQUAINTANCES.—

A person in the world has acquaintances, that is to with whom one meets in business, or as passengers are going down the street, a gentleman of your acquaintance, he introduces you to a gentleman. In future more frequent occasion to meet on street cars, or on the elsewhere, and you know other; it is quite possible to meet so frequently that exchange a few words of conversation. Later on you meet a house of some mutual acquaintance, you become more closely acquainted. It never goes beyond that gentleman you look all future time as an acquaintance. But are you justified in a friend? By no means is that even your acquaintance is so slight that you are certain whether he would trouble to do you a good to put himself out to do a case of necessity. You evidence that he has a friendship for you. Yet do we not hear a person in this situation, talking of a great friend of mine, the ordinary affairs of life cannot say that the man you are dealing can be your friend. He might do you, be glad to assist you in some transaction, he will go out of his way to do some scheme or enter would he ask you to his would he give you access timacy of his family? P Then you may call him acquaintances if you like business friend; but I speak of him as a friend simple. The fact is that friend without that his with you are based on. The very words convey to As long as interest, or selfishness underlies his friendship; and adultery ship is only a sham.

FRIENDSHIP ANALY

must not run away with that because a person is ated with the most perfect interested friendship that therefore your enemy, antagonist. By no means, real genuine friendship is rare. This may sound strange, it is nonetheless the case, just examine the matter a moment. How many friends—that is people, whose sincere friendship for you possess? You will probably have your mother, or sisters, or wife, or children; the sentiment there is friendship, it is love. The many individuals, if you be so fortunate, who enter into friendship for you; but not designate them as friends. Then go down the scale of friendship, from the narrowest to the broadest. The man in such or such a business is what you call a friend. Is his friendship purely disinterested? It may be. Has he not some personal view? It may be. He even baseless, but, for the ing, he believes it is to his interest to help you. This is not complete friendship. A young boy, a merchant by taking you into his eyes in you talents that are to account for the future of his business. He has done in helping you, but friendship is not purely disinterested. It is your patron, but can him in the technical sense.