



A TOUCHING STORY OF SELF-SACRIFICE.

SPECIAL TO THE TRUE WITNESS.

Quebec, May 16.

It sometimes happens that "truth is stranger than fiction," and what follows may be cited as a case in point. The incident grew out of the recent electric car fatality to one of its best known and popular conductors, the late unfortunate Fenton Horan, who was crushed the other day between two cars on the Place d'Armes, St. Anne street, Quebec. The life of the wounded man was not altogether snapped by the terrible squeeze, but his mangled body was conveyed to the Hotel Dieu where some of Quebec's ablest surgeons examined his wounds and dressed them with that tender care and sympathetic feeling which tender-hearted professional men exhibit, when brought face to face with dire misfortune and suffering. And what made the painful incident in this fatality more intense was the fact that the injured individual was a much respected young man, trusted by the company, esteemed by his fellow-conductors, a man of musical taste and ability, at one time a popular member of St. Patrick's choir, a helper at concerts for the benefit of the Church, and a sweet singer whose voice was familiar to those of the parish and city who frequented congregational dramas and plays at Tara Hall and the Academy of Music. When to this was added the fact that he was a model husband and father as well as being the sole bread winner and support of his comfortable little household, it evoked an unusual degree of sympathetic interest on the part of his friends and the citizens generally, and many were the prayers and supplications offered that his life might be spared to his devoted wife and children. Later in the same day, of the casualty the consulting and attending surgeon decided that his chances of life depended upon the amputation of the worst shattered limb, and this decision was carried out by cutting off the bruised member above the knee. The patient seemed to stand the terrible ordeal well and even rested after the operation, and hopes of saving him were entertained.

It was at this juncture that the heroic clerical offer, as indicated above, was made by an invalid priest who is an inmate of the Hotel Dieu. He had been informed of all the distressing circumstances of the case, the grief of the stricken widow and her helpless children entered into his soul, and he thought of the long years of suffering and affliction that might be prevented if that young life could only be saved, and restored to the loved ones whose paternal guardian he was and upon whose life and energies they depended for their upbringing and education and support. All these touching considerations influenced the charitable heart of the kindly priest, and he weighed this in one hand while he put against it in the other, the humble estimate of the worthlessness of his own life, deprived as it was of the physical activities which otherwise might enable him to render a service to humanity, and acting under these human feelings and being inspired with the spirit of true Christianity he voluntarily offered the sacrifice of his own life up to his Creator, in lieu of and as a ransom for the young life, in the next room, which was hovering be-

tween the brink of time and eternity, should it please God to accept of the sacrifice. The offer was made advisedly and heroically in the hearing and presence of the good nuns and Sisters of the famous institution, and made too with the unctious and fervor of soul that is conscious of supernatural desire to help the afflicted and to relieve the sore distressed.

The self-sacrificing and heroic priest made no lofty or pretentious boast of his noble intention, but rather too humbly depicted the vast difference between the value of the two lives, counting his own as coming too near its end in its natural order, and even if prolonged for years, he urged the prospective uselessness of remaining longer in the world in his invalid state. It, however, was the will of the great Arbiter of life and death to refuse the proffered sacrifice. The poor wounded man rallied sufficiently to gain the use of his spiritual and intellectual faculties, and had the happiness to receive all the sacred rites of religion administered by the Redemptorist Fathers of St. Patrick's, and he passed out of this world early on the following morning thoroughly fortified by the saving sacraments of the Church, the only effective consolation left to the departing Christian when summoned to take the last dread step from time to eternity. On the following Saturday his remains were brought to St. Patrick's, where solemn Requiem Mass was offered for his repose. The funeral procession from the house to the church and from thence to St. Patrick's Cemetery was one of the largest seen here in a long time. Many prominent citizens walked in the cortege, and the Electric Railway employees attended in a body, the church was filled with sympathetic condolers and the streets along the route were lined with people.

Were it possible for such an act of human sacrifice and self-denial to take place among the turbulent dwellers in the outer secular world, its heroism would be talked of and heralded to the four corners of the earth, but happening as it did in the cloister, where the feet of profane men never touch, the noble deed is barely mentioned outside the walls of the historic institution, nor is it thought proper ever to speak the name of the clerical hero who leads his saintly life hidden and unknown to the busy world, and who of course wants no praise from men on account of the superhuman sacrifice he willingly offered to make to save the life of a fellow creature which he esteemed as of much more value than his own, nor was there either delay or reservation in his mind when he made declaration of his holy intentions at the altar and in the most solemn manner in the presence of those who were there at the impressive scene. Occurrences of a kindred nature are not rare in the Catholic Church, whose devoted clergymen and Sisters of various religious orders have to face death, and plague and fever stench at the bedside of the stricken ones whom they have to confess, anoint and prepare for death. But this pathetic incident deserves mention as having happened in our midst and under such touching circumstances.

WM. ELLISON.

loss to the relatives by the death, but the extent of the injury the dead person had suffered. This makes it necessary in order to recover damages to prove that the dead person had lived some appreciable time after he had been injured and suffered pain.

Judge Robinson overruled the motion, however, and asked to hear evidence as to whether the railroad company had been negligent. Mr. Day then introduced witnesses to prove that the company had not been negligent. Lawyers for Petrillo's estate failed to rebut this evidence, and Judge Robinson awarded the estate \$10 nominal damages. By this decision Judge Robinson took the ground that there had been no negligence on the part of the railroad company, and did not touch upon the unsettled point in regard to instantaneous death.

Jacob P. Goodhart, counsel for the plaintiff, said:—"If instantaneous death can be proved there is no redress according to the old common law."

Mrs. Anna S. Griffin, the widow of Walter H. Griffin, Secretary of the United States Fire Insurance Company, New York, who was killed on December 6th, last, at the office of the Company, No. 55 William street, by an accident to the elevator, obtained a verdict in the Supreme Court for \$22,500 damages against William De Forest Manice, the owner of the building for the death of her husband. The trial lasted several days before Judge Chase, who granted an allowance of \$600 in addition to the verdict.

Mr. Griffin who had been secretary of the Company for several years, was forty-three years old, and was married on July 15th, 1890. On the day of the accident there was a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company on the eighth floor of the build-

ing, which was attended by William W. Underhill, the president; G. H. Smith, Wm. L. Moore and several others, including Mr. Griffin. After the meeting several of the men got into the elevator, among them being Mr. Smith, Mr. Moore and Mr. Griffin, and descended.

As they were going down the speed increased and apparently the car could not be controlled by the elevator boy. It struck the bottom with such force that it rebounded.

There was a great crash, and several pieces of iron weights attached to the elevator fell from above, through the car, and one of them struck Mr. Griffin, killing him almost instantly, and severely injuring several other occupants of the car.

Apart from the peculiarity of the Connecticut laws, in matters of damages, we feel that this is an evidence that cannot be gainsaid in favor of trial by jury—as we have it in Canada—in all such cases. That the damages awarded should be based upon the degree of suffering endured by the deceased is mere nonsense. In the first place there exists no infallible human means, whereby the amount of the victim's sufferings can be gauged. And even were the one killed to have suffered to a great extent, he (or she) in no way gains any compensation for such sufferings. The object of the damages is to compensate those survivors whose lives depended upon the life of the deceased. And thus viewed, the poor man's widow stands more in need of compensation than does the one who survives a rich husband. Moreover, there is something ridiculously illogical in according ten dollars for a human life. If the life of the victim were only worth ten dollars to his widow and orphans, it was actually of no value at all, and no damages should have been awarded.

FIRST COMMUNION AT ST. ANN'S CHURCH

The children of St. Ann's Parish made their First Communion on Thursday morning at half past seven, after undergoing a very serious retreat which opened last Sunday afternoon. Rev. Father Lemieux, Vicar-Provincial of the Redemptorist Order officiated at the children's Mass on Thursday and the beautiful decorations of the altar together with the white dresses and veils of the girls and the black suits and white ribbons of the boys made a most impressive scene. There were one hundred and seventy-two boys and girls made their First Communion and a large number of others who renewed it. The church was crowded with parents and friends, who had come to be present with their dear little ones at the happiest moment of their lives.

In the afternoon there took place in the church the distribution of prizes, to the winners of the Catechism competition, which took place two weeks ago among the boys and girls who were to make their First Communion. Both the competition and distribution were public and a large number of parents were present. The first prize for boys was taken by Master Edward Shanahan, who obtained forty-six and one half points out of a maximum of fifty. The first prize for girls was won by Beatrice Penell, who obtained forty-two points. Six other prizes were given to those who knew the whole Catechism with-

out any mistake, and some second prizes to those who made only one mistake. There were thirty-four boys and twenty-seven girls who entered the competition and the five questions that were selected were as follows:—

- 1st. Give six effects of a good confession and six effects of a good Communion.
- 2nd. Prove that Confirmation is a Sacrament?
- 3rd. Prove that Protestantism is not the true Church of Christ?
- 4th. Explain the difference between a heretic, an infidel, a schismatic and a heathen. Also the difference between Holy Communion, Holy Mass, and the Blessed Eucharist?
- 5th. Explain the difference between perfect contrition and imperfect contrition, and the qualities of contrition?

At half past seven the same evening His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to the children who made their First Communion in the morning and to ten adults. The church was crowded to its utmost capacity on this occasion and by those that were present the scene will long be remembered. The choir of St. Ann's Church under the direction of Prof. P. J. Shea furnished the music. Rev. Father Strubbe preached a most eloquent sermon upon Christian life and what the children should do to preserve the state of grace.

THIRD ORDER OF ST. FRANCIS.

On Sunday afternoon the Irish Sisterhood of the Third Order of St. Francis in Montreal held their monthly re-union in the Church of the Rev. Franciscan Fathers, Dorchester street, at which took place a religious profession. Eighteen English-speaking ladies took the habit, and eighteen others received the white veil.

On June 25th, the Irish Sisterhood of the Order is holding its annual pilgrimage to Cap de Madeleine, via the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is expected that a very large number will avail themselves of this opportunity to visit this favored shrine.

At the tombola of the Third Order which was held two weeks ago with the approbation of his Grace the Archbishop, the following English-speaking ladies won prizes:— They are requested to call for them

and to bring their tickets to the vestry of the Third Order on Thursdays and Fridays from 1 p. m. to 5 p. m. The English-speaking prize winners are:— Miss Annie Donnelly, Hermine street, an organ; Mr. J. Keely, St. Justin; M. Stuart, St. Paul street; Mrs. G. Str., 1709 St. Catherine St.; Miss Keely, St. Urbain street; Miss Kavanagh, Sherbrooke street; J. N. Harris, Craig street; M. Purcell, Chateauguay street; Mr. Gill, St. Lawrence Main street; M. Clark, Outremont; Miss Burns, Ontario street; M. Walsh, Colborne street; Miss Thompson, Gain street; Mrs. McCaughan, St. Lawrence Main street; Mary Riley, Sherbrooke street; M. Renmant, 394 Sherbrooke street; Mrs. Fox, Dorchester street; Miss Crozier, Ontario street; Mr. Weeks, St. Andre street; M. MacDonogh, St. Antoine street; and Miss Ouellet, City Hall Avenue, (wax cross in globe.)

RECENT EVENTS IN EUROPE.

Elaborate preparations are being made in Omagh for the dedication of the new church of the Sacred Heart there, on Sunday, May 28, when Cardinal Logue, the Archbishop of Armagh—the historic See of St. Patrick—and Primate of all Ireland, will be present. Bishop O'Donnell will celebrate High Mass; Bishop O'Doherty of Derry will perform the dedication ceremonies; and Bishop Clancy of Elphin will preach in the evening. A notable feature of the occasion will be the unveiling of the high altar of the Sacred Heart, which has been erected mainly by the Irish-American admirers of the late Archbishop Hughes, of New York, to perpetuate his memory in the capital of his native county. Two beautiful confessionals, the carving of which was executed in Bruges, Belgium, have been presented by the Tyrone residents of Glasgow and West Scotland. They are all real works of art, each costing over \$500 and speak volumes for the faith and devotion of the exiled sons of the land of the O'Neills. The jeweled vestments to be worn on the day of the opening have all been presented by the exiled Gael, and have been made by the Good Shepherd nuns. In all he expected six bishops present, together with the Cardinal.

The organ which is already put up is the gift of Miss Boyle, and cost \$7,500. The erection of the Church was begun six years ago, and it is one of the handsomest ecclesiastical structures in Ireland.

Orange rowdism is far from dead in Belfast. Recently a number of Orange bands accompanied by a crowd of admirers met at Carlisle Circus, to celebrate the release of an individual who had been sentenced to jail as an anti-Ritualist rioter. As the bands and crowd were returning from the meeting they hurled stones at St. Patrick's Catholic Church and smashed the glass door of the Central Catholic Club. The police did not interfere.

It is interesting to have the position of the "Parnellites" on the duty question clearly defined by themselves. The definition has come from Mr. J. P. Hayden, M.P., who, in a recent speech said that "everyone who desired the advancement and triumph of the National cause desired to see their people united; but, at the same time, they felt that the events of the past few years made it difficult to enter into negotiations with men with whom they had differed upon great and important principles; and, whilst the Parnellites of Ireland were sincerely desirous, and because they were sincerely desirous, of having a real and true union, they had held aloof from those negotiations because largely that they believed that they were a sham. As soon as the Parnellites in Parliament and out of Parliament saw that there was any real effort to bring about unity upon such lines, then was the time, and not until then to give the matter their serious consideration."

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT ON THE EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

For the benefit of our labor organizations, and possibly of members of Parliament who are interested in the recently eight hour Labor Bill brought into the House of Commons, we give a few extracts from the remarks of Governor Roosevelt, of New York State, on the subject.

After signing a Bill amending the Eight Hour Law of the Empire State, the governor filed a memorandum in which he said:—

"The need of the passage of this law is evident. There is at present, and has long been, on the statute books an Eight Hour Law, but it is so easy of evasion that it has been largely inoperative. It is always detrimental to the best interests of the State to have a law on the statute books which pretends to do something and does not do it, and this, of course, is especially the case where it is highly important that the nominal end sought to be attained really should be attained.

"The general tendency toward an eight hour working day has undoubtedly been healthful, and it is wise for the State, to set a good example as an employer of labor, both as to the number of hours of labor exacted and

In opening Dumfries Town band bazaar a few days ago, an eminent Scottish prelate made a forcible plea for the use of national music. The Dumfries Band, in aid of which the bazaar had been organized, would he hoped, frequently discourse the strains of their Scottish national music. To know, he said, that it was customary in the present day for bands and orchestras to affect foreign music, and while it was desirable to achieve good results in every style of music, somehow, or other he did not think there was the same pith and vigor, the same tenderness of sentiment in foreign ditties that Scotchmen found in their own national songs. There was nothing that disgusted him more as to hear some of those lackadaisical, mumbly, jumbly trash taken from some London drawing-room and drawled out beside a piano, when a decent old Scotch song which would give you sense and rhythm, melody and music, was cast aside at the back of the piano. The proceeds for the first day of the bazaar amounted to \$1,400.

The Rev. James Bellard was consecrated in London a few days ago, as Bishop of Malacca and Vicar-General of Gibraltar. The consecrating prelates were: Bishop Patterson, of Emmanuel; Bishop Bourne, of Southwark; and Bishop Mostyn, of Monrovia. The new Bishop has had a distinguished career as military chaplain, having served through the Zulu, Boer, and Egyptian campaigns, being severely wounded at Tel-el-Kebir. He also performed the last rites over the Prince Imperial's body in Zululand.

Divorce cases are increasing in England. This year the number of petitions for absolute divorce, so far, is 720, as compared with 683 at the same date last year. The shopkeeper class provide the highest percentage, namely, 6 1-5 per cent.; saloon and hotel keepers come next, with 3 3-5 per cent.; professional men, including engineers and architects follow with 3 per cent; and actors, musicians, and sailors are at the bottom of the list with 2 4-5 per cent.

Cremona is making slow progress in France, notwithstanding the facilities afforded for the practice by the Society for the Propagation of Cremona, which has established crematoriums in various parts of the country. The cause of this slow progress is the opposition of the Church, which is backed up by the Frenchman's traditional reverence for the dead.

Divergent views are still being heard in Europe regarding the Car's Peace Conference at The Hague. German and English critics sneer at it as a sham, and point to the Car's increasing armaments and his refusal to accept the offer of Mr. Goschen, to stop building so many warships, if England did the same. Still, there is some chance of an agreement being arrived at, for the tendencies of the times are certainly in favor of peace and great wars are becoming less frequent than formerly.

VALUE OF A HUMAN LIFE.

Considerable commotion has been created by some recent and somewhat contradicting decisions rendered by judges in the State of Connecticut, and New York, in matters of accidental deaths. In one instance the life of a man is valued at \$10, and in another it is estimated at \$22,500. It is also significant that the ten dollar man was a poor laborer, while the other was a well-to-do citizen. Naturally the judgments provoked no end of comment and it has already been moved to amend the law which absurd on the face of it—accords such powers of discrimination to a single judge. The better to understand the issue we will give an account of each case. A despatch from New Haven, Conn., to the New York Herald thus tells the story:—

Antonio Petrillo, a laborer, against the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, in which he awarded Petrillo's estate \$10 for the loss of Petrillo's life, has attracted wide attention.

When the case was tried the lawyers for Petrillo's estate admitted that Petrillo had been instantly killed. Attorney Harry G. Day, for the railroad company, then set up the contention that as death had been instantaneous there had been no appreciable length of suffering between the time that Petrillo had been struck by the train and the time of death. He therefore moved that the case be dismissed.

In the case of Euton versus the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, in the Thirty-Third Connecticut Reports, it was held that the ground of the damages was not the