# Our Quebec Letter

Characteristic Features of the Ancient Capital.

ITS ANTIQUITY AND CATH-OLICITY.

Incidents of Christmas and New Year's.

Most outside views to messem tame. As I feast my eyes unon this City of historic fame: In its varied features I recall memories past, And beho d objects unique in east.

QUEBEC January 3. The more I see of this grand old city of ancient fame, the more I am convinced that in many respects it has no equal in this New World The natural view to be had from Dufferin Terrace or from the Citadel heights is perhaps unrivalled in any land. As you walk up be taken on a clear supshiny day the prospect is glorious for sunbeams impart a glamor to physical objects of rare beauty that captivates the human senses. If you look out upon the fairylike scene on a dark night you see as it were a dark space lit up by stars, for the gay lights may twinkle in the houses of Lower Town, epos the Levis heights, the distant B supert and Charlebourg, while in the dark waters hel withe gleening lights from the ships in the barbor comproperty paner mic scene. The citizens themselves d n't seem to fully come rebend what nature and Prividence have done for them, but the vigiliant eye of a stranger takes it in at the very tirst glance. There as we turn from the wide view of natural sceners to the old homes and habitations of TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO

and ver, we we spectacles that lead the mind backwards to the historic past and we curiously wender if the people of the by gone centuries were animated with feelings and impulses such as we experience who live in this present day, We cannot ansewer the query, because every age has i's distinctive features and peculiarities, but we sir-wd v suspect that human pature has been the same from the beginning, and that personal and social strivings and ambitions in the olden times were pretty muck akin to what they are to day. In other respects things diff'r widely, for the prosperous merchan's and professio al min who now erect mansions on the Gren !& Allée St Louis road Maple Avenue and historic St. Foye, wonder why the French race of earlier does were content to live in the bumbler dwellings then in vogue I is this contrist or rither combination of old and new, that makes Quebec so interesting to American visitors and European travellers. They are in it social conditions and aspects totally different from wh. t they left at home or can be found anywhere outside of Quebec. I saw an evidence of this myself a few evenings ago in spending a social hour with Mr. and Wrs Eugene M. Kenna and their interesting group of little children, in Sie Fimilie etreet. The geniul host proved by written documents and

for any of the newer erections in the neighborhood. In speaking of autiquity here the one thing ever present to the mind is the fact that Catholicia was uppermost in the hearts and souls of the early French settlers and civitizers, for at every step you see evidence this in he relies of the sacred religious institutions of the past and in the sign of man's redemption which towers its head heavenward in all parts of this venerable city of culture, religion and morality.

when they pass that way. Despite its

accumulated years, it is yet cosy and

comfortable and would not be exchanged

In this yer house in which I am now writing these lines, and wherein I am the guest of Mr. James L. Harkin, an old and sincere triena. I san situated almost under the shadow of the firm as Lival University, the Quebec Seminary, the Basilica and the venerable Cardinal Tascherenu's palace Imagine wast this group of consecrated buildinger presents in the world of education and religion. and then dwell for a moment up in the lowly bodily condition of the emine t churchmen were is ac ually sinking undergone in the hallowed cause of religion, education and morality. In thinking of the helpiess condition of the venerable Cardinal we see an in stance of the weakness of humanity it self, and in a other view we are reminded of the shoreness of time and the insecurity of life. I r dir ctly across the street from where I am writing this manuscript crape is upon the door, and that is a sad indicator that some member of that household has been called to an eternal account, and, woeful to say, it is the mother of the family, Mrs. Thomas Carr. But the sorrowing hus band and children have religious and sympathetic consol tion even in this be reavement for the cond lence of riends counts for much in the e-se of death, but the recollection of having lived a good virtuous life counts for far more, because in the first the relief is merely temporary, while in the second the joy and reward are eternal.

## New Year Services.

This new phase of my as me has been forcibly dwelt upon by the Very Rev. Father Rector and the zoalous Redemptorists of St. Patrok's parish, during the closing day or too old year and the opening of the new On the 31st ultimo, Very Rev Freer Rossbach very vividly drew the a tenti of his parionioners to the state of their spiritual and eternal accounts Placing their detects in one scale and their morits in another, it was sought to ascert tip on what side

imperative conditions and obligations were laid down with emphatic distinctness, so that even the duliest understanding could not mistake them. Sunday of the year, the Rev. Father Maloney, CSSR., emphasized the shortness of time and life's uncertainty. He made it, in the short space allowed him, as clear as possible that man's paramount duty is C. SS. R., spoke in eloquent language to his congregation on the sacred and essential lessons that belong to this particular season of the year. He used many illustrative figures to bring his discourse home to the minds of his hearers. He spoke of the necessity ci constant perseverance in good works, quoting the self-evident truth and down that samed promenade, you that we are never sure of our are fascinated by the objects that meet salvation until we have reachyour vision on every side. If the view ed the eternal haven of rest, as the scalaring man is never sure of safety till he enters the port of destination. He also quoted the life and career of Solomon, his vanities and errors, and fact, they place them in the position of elequently applied the same to enhance privileged spies. The writer says: the value of his sermon. Viewed in all its bearings, the pastoral and priestly attention bestowed upon St. Parrick's parish is constant, exact and devoted, and it is gratifying to find that it is bearing good spiritual and temporal ruit, for the congr gation is docile and devoted to its paster and priests, and the mutualties that hand them to each other are solid, beneficial and truly spiritual. WM. FLLINOS.

# 紫紫紫紫紫 紫紫紫紫紫 茶茶涂涂茶茶 洗涤涤涂洗涤

"Menticulture" is the latest New York fad, and it is becoming a great favorite among ladies of that city. So far as we can make out from the accounts pubnamed a lot of lazy women get together, and wonderful to say, maintain a pera ct silence. By this they hope to be thie to exchange ideas without using tueir tongues. It is understood that a movement is on foot among the married men of the State to petition the Governor to have menticulture taught in the -chools as a furtherance of happy mental relations.

Cremation, it is said, is gaining ground in Paris, there being as many as fivelve b dies a day committed to the fiery retort. The sanitary idea of it may be all right, but to judge from the following extract from a writer on the subject of Parisian funerals the luxury comes rather high. He says that there is only one company in Paris and this controls the entire burial business of the immense metropolis. The

charges of this company are divided into many staremia. classes. If you are a R man Catholic, a uneral of the first class will cost you \$2 000; if a Protestant the same class with cost you only \$1,500; if an Israelite, title deeds that his present home was built in 1710. He also told me that our \$600, and if you have no faith at all you will pay but \$480 The differences scrutinizing American visitors keep in these prices does not mean that the penetrating eyes for the venerable abode Government has set up a standard of riches, love of pomp, or even respectalility, according to religious persuacion. They mean that the principal expense is for church services. As a matter of fact, there were but sixteen first class funerals in Paris last year, and the deceased were in fourteen cases Roman Catholics, Protestant in one, and nonbeliever in one. From the prices named for the first class the rates go gradually down to the ninth, the lowest class in which it is possible to be buried. In that class a common deal coffin, a hearse to carry it to the cometery, and a divine to say the last word at the grave, cost \$9 50 for a Catholic and \$4.50 for a Prot--tant. In all classes the city charges a tax. It is a raduated in the same manner as the funeral charges, being \$8 in

the first class and \$1 20 in the ninth. The tuneral charge and the city tax must always be paid, whether the body is to be put into the ground or buried; so the only saving effected by cremation is in the cost of a last res ing place. In the cemeteries of Paris a plot of ground three teet wide by six long costs from \$140 to \$300. For each a iditional equare under the load of vears and labors he has \$30. A grave may be rented, however, toot, hingth or width, the price is about for five or for thirty ye rs, at a reduced rate, plus a yearly city tax. Cremation, on the other hand, is furnished by the city in eight classes, the price ranging from \$60 down to \$10. This charge includes the right to a niche in the colu nbarium for the space of five years, at the end of which time the contents of the urn are emptied into a common grave. A concession for the use of the niche in perpetuity may be purchased from the city for \$75 The fashion of taking the ashes in the urn to one's home is growing. There is, as yet, no law against it; but it is likely that there will be one, or a municipal tax on home-kept ashes, as soon as the practice becomes common.

Contrary to the popular idea of cremation, a body is not burned by flames.

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size, tasteless, efficient, thorough. As one man said: "You never know jou

bave taken a pill till it is all over." 250. C. I. Hood & Co., Proprietors, Lowell, Mass. The only pills to take with Hood's Surseparille-

the balance would incline, and if in a wrong direction, the remedy was pointed out in an eminently practical way, that is built on the side of a gentle declivity, could not be misunderstood. At the Grand Mass on New Year's Day, the Rev Fatter B mis, C SS.R., reviewed the of a wast vault, in which the funeral courage of their convictions, and come out in the side of a wast vault, in which the funeral courage of their convictions, and come out in their t things that alone could entitle his hear- sevices are conducted, and the burning ers to the enjoyment of a real happy chamber. In the vault there are seats spiritual and Christian new year. The arranged as in a church. In the centre aisle is a railway, upon which runs a car, catafalque; the railway ends at the doors of the burning chamber. During the services the coffin rests upon this At the 8 o'clock Mass on the opening car, by means of which it is finally run to the end of the sisle. Then the big doors of the hot air furnace are opened and the coffin alid within.

The furnace proper is upon the lower floor. Behind it are a great number of flues. The burning agent is oxide of to utilize his time in preparation for carbon, produced by the use of gazogene, the everlasting existence beyond the and fresh air pumped into direct contact grave, and this was done in the forceful and logical way for which the reverend preacher is noted. At the High Mass heat it takes twenty-five minutes to conon the same day the Rev. Father Woods, sume the body of a child and fifty-five C. SS. R., spoke in eloquent language that of an adult. All that remains after cremation is a little firayish-white powder-weighing 21 pounds in the case of a man and less than 2 pounds in that of a woman.

> There is a rather interesting, if somewhat lengthy, article, in the NewYork Times of a recent issue, entitled the "Secrets of Diplomacy." The writer has, no doubt, had an intimate relation with the diplomatic corps, to which he refers. His reference to the duties of an ambassador is not particularly flattering to these distinguished personages; in

> "While ostensibly the position of an Ambassador is to learn officially all that may be of importance to his own country, in reality he must probe the secrets of the officials to whose Government he is accredited, as well as the plans of his colleagues in the embassatorial college. He cannot do this efficially; neither can he acknowledge that it is done. His only recourse is to paid spies, whose actions he can never acknowledge if discovery is made. The spy pays the penalty; his employer denies all knowledge of the matter—that is all

> "But besides the legitimately accredited attachés there is a corps of men and women in the employ of the embassies to whom the most difficult missions are assigned. They are drawn from every class of society, from household servants as well as from the noblesse. There is no honor in their missions and no reward save money and the enjoyment they may get out of their cilice. It has otten been alleged that a Russian Court noble very near the person of the Cz or is in the pay of the Foreign Office in Downing street."

> The existence of the Franco Ru-sian alliance was known in Berlin even before the Paris press published encomiums on the subject. It is now known that the revelations made by Bismarck last year of the recent existence of a secret, defensive treaty between Russia and Germany at the time the terms of the Dreibund were negotiated was no news to the Aus trian Government, although Italy affect ed surprise on the appearance of Bis marck's epistles. The information on these subjects was naturally revealed by the secretly employed spies.

Of course, when this species of espionage involves the crime of treason, if discovered, the spy is summarily dealt with. In Russia they "disappear"; in Germany and France their crime is publicly announced and they are tried according to Lastly, a pair of long, tight fitting elector the military law of the land. But where | or cuffs of like material with the other the espionage does not actually involve | vestments, similarly embroid red, not treason the spy, especially if it be a woman, is more leniently dealt with She is usually told to leave the country at once, no matter what her position at Court may be, for the nearer the govereign she is the greater her crime. The Russian Court is in constant fear of the Polish noblesse, many of whom are attached to the household of the Czar and Czarina; for they are the persons who will serve any nation against the annihilator of their land, while political reasons make their position at the St. Peteraburg Court a necessity.

The able and special correspondent is at it again. The following paragraph recently appeared in the columns of the London Merning Post under date from Ottawa:-

"The Canadian government at the request of Great Britain, has ordered the confiscation of seditions publications, This is primarily due to a desire to prevent the Canadian independence movement from stimulating disaffection in India; but it will have the effect of suppressing all public discussion as to annexation to the United States, and colluteral subjects."

It is needless to remark that the story is a pure invention. Those who are apt to think that Scotland is the most exalted gem in the crown of Great Britain cught to read the following statement of Colonel Hardy, chairman of the S ottish Crown Commissioners, before the Royal Commission on the Liquor Laws. In reply to the Chairman, he said com mittals to prison were immeasurably greater in Scotland than in England, the figures showing that there were 2.14 times the English number. He was so struck by the difference in the figures that he made some examination of the difference in the offences and crimes, and found that the high number in Scotland was due to offences brought about by drunkenness, and by drunkenness pure and simple. Taking one year, he found that out of a total of 53,000 committals in Scotland 38,000 were for offences traceable to drink.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

SIR,-Reading of the installations in the various Masonic Lodges of this city, the following struck me as being rather strange: "The officers of this Lodge, (Cour Unis. No. 45,) were installed by the D.D G.M., at the regular communication held last week." Evidently the officers of No. 45 do not consider them selves honored by having been installed "last week," otherwise they would no object to the publication of their names amongst the "Ancient, Free and Accept-ed Masons." Now, I consider such conduct about the smallest that a man can be guilty of, that is, belonging to a society of which he is ashamed. Ac-

courage of their convictions, and come out in their true colors. It they think well of the Order, let them proclaim it, and not endeaver to decrive their com patriote I am surpris d that our Eng lish fellow citizens would receive them under such conditions. It seems to remind they must be in great want of recruits when they accept cand dates who are ashamed to acknowledge to ir mem bership in the association. I suppose their excuse is, "that they would be persecuted if they were known" But, Mr. Editor, I have an idea that the members of Cour Unis No. 45 are not the sort of men to suffer persecution for any cause, because people that suffer for a principle ar. these who stand by their flag on all occasions. Evidently they are not made of that stuff; perhaps they imagine the connection might be profitable, and that would account for their endeavor "to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds.'

JE SUIS SURPRIS. Montreal, 28th Dec., '97.

#### COPTIC MASS AT BRUGES.

Celebration of the Oriental Rites Recently Authorized by Pope Leo.

From the Tablet.

Mgr. Sabá et-Lift, Vicar General of Thebes, has been paying a visit to Bruges, and on Sunday morning at o'clock he cele rated Mass according to the Captic rite in the Campel of the Precious Blood, that gorgeous remin se ence of a bygone age, which still annually draws to its shrine so many then sands of pilgrims and of t arists. It was probably the first time that the ancient liturgy of Alexandria has ever heer celebrated within these hardly ness as cient walls.

Not only in color, form and textur

but with the exception or a plainevery ecclesiastical vestment wort by Mgr Səbbel Laï during the celebratio of the distre inseteries was interesically different from those which we be accustomed to see worn at Mass. The fellow ing articles made up the secondard estume: First, a plain white a.b. with rochet. Over this a vestment of pubblue brocade embroid red down the ing in front to the feet with a V knapad given away. opening for the head, and with the hinder part shortened to about six inches. Possibly this vestment is some ancient form of stole. It was drawn in round the waist by a belt or cord secured with a gold and jewelled clasp Over this again, not, as might be expected, a chasable of some antique fashion, but a cope, an ordinary cepe, op n in front and fastened on the broas by a morse, but without orplievs or hood, the only ornament being a plain Greek cross embroudered in the centre of the back. This vestment, made of pale blue brocade and lined with ambercolored silk, was so long that it trailed for several inches on the ground, and of such a ft material that it drayed in grace. ful folds with every movement of the body the apparels of a Gothic alb, but true sleeves encircling the entire forcarm and reaching almost to the elbow These are probably the manualsa of precious studs to which the Abbé Du chesne alludes in his "Origines du Culte Chrétien" as forming part of the sacer notal costume of the East and of Gallician countries, and correspond seem ingly to the maniples of the Roman

On entering the church Mer. Sala ascended the altar steps and began the Mass, standing at the centre of the alter not repeating the opening sentences by heart as we do, but reading them from the missal, where was placed in the same position sit occupies during the canon of the Roman rite. After several short prayers he turned himself round to the people and blessed them with the sign of the cross, and then came the ceremony of the washing of the fingers. performed exactly as at the Roma; Larabo : then the offertory, the bunds which held the unconstructed Hest bein. veiled with a small silken unpkin or handkerchief of like color with the sacrificial vestments.

Meanwhile, two servers had taken un their position on either side of the altar, the one on the Gospel side holding cruet of wine, and the one on the Epistle side with a vial of water Presently the celebrant, turning to the people, blessed them with the unconsecrated Host; then he turned to the right and, in like man ner, blessed the wine, and then to the left to bless the water. This ceremony completed, the server on the Gospel side crossed over to the Epistle side of the altar, stationing himself next his companion. Wine and water were nexserved to the celebrant as in the Roman rite, and then came the offering of the chaice is like manner. Afterward the Gospel was read, Mgr. Saba standing at the centre of the altar with his face to the people and holding the missalin his hands; then in very excellent French he preached a sermon, and then, descending for the first time to the foot of the altar steps, with arms outstretched, repeated by heart a short prayer. Then followed a second washing of the fingers and a second blessing of the congregation, thus time with the silken napkin which had held the unconsecrated wafer, and then the canon.

The adoration of the sacred species did not take place until immediately before the communion. This ceremony was most impressive. The six servers knot at the toot of the altar steps; the cele brant, not bending his knees but profoundly inclining his body, remained in silent prayers for about the space of two minutes, then after having first partaken of a portion of the precious blood, re-

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civing the Divine Host into hands once i more veiled with the silken napkin, he turned round to the people and blessed completed the Mass.

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The following is one of several testimonials

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Publisher Catholic Record.

#### DISINFECTING A RESERVOIR.

Waterworks disinfection on a wholethem with it exactly in the same man-sale plan was tried at Maidstone, Eng. ner as at benediction. Then turning according to Boston journals, which round again to the altar, he consumed state that Dr. Sim. Woodhead treated he Sacred Host and afterward partook the reservoir and mains of a district of of the remainder of the precious blood, !that city with a heavy doze of chloride Then followed the ablutions as in the lof lime. About ten town of the lime Reman rite, then a third washing of the were mixed with 240 000 gallons of fingers, then the last blessing. This water in the reservoir, and the solution allowed to flow into the mains. At a certain hour it was turned into all the nouse connections in the district, and what did not escape in this way was · ventually blown off through hydrants. published the first edition of his great The disinfection was done to destroy

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W. Maguire, Recording Secretary, 116 St. Andre

street, to whom all communications should be ad-

St. Patrick's Court, No. 95, C.O.F.

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LESACE, Secretary, 467 Berri Street

# 652 Craig Street.

MERCHINGS.

## SOCUMPY

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Young trishmen's L. & B. Association Organized, April 1874. Theory orated, Dec. 1875.

Regular mouthly matting held on its hall. If Dirice street, first Westweeder above vin mobilet so check, P.M. Committee of Management meets every second and footbly Westweeters are of read in 6th President, JAS 3 Welli vives conjugated with Persident, JAS 3 Welli vives conjugated by the President of the Action of the Parallel School of Parallel Action of the Parallel School of Parallel Action Williams Wellinghay, D. Galley, Jas McMahon

Ancient Gider of Eliberalans.

\* 1319305 No. 2.

Meets in lower vestey of St. Gabriel New Church, corner Cestre and L. takie streets, on the ind awe 4th Friday of each mouth, a syem. Persident, ANDIEW 6th NN: Receibing Secretar, THOS N SMITH, 6th ichmond Cest, to whom all communications should be archessed. Deleg testo St. Patrick's League: A. Dann, M. Lynch and B. Connaughton. Connanchton.

A.O.R. - ivision No. 3.

Meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each routh, at Hiberan Holl, No. 2nd Notre Dame St. Officers: B. Wall, Posident: P. Carroll, Vice-President; John Hughes, Fin. Secretary: Wim, Rowley, Researching; W. P. Stanton, Treas: Marshal, John Konnedy: T. Erwine, Chairman of Standing: emmittee. Hall is oper-every evening few cut regular meeting wiehts; for members of the Order and their friends, where these will find Irish and other leading news; apers on file

A.O.H.-Bivision No. 4.

President, H. T. Kear s, No. 32 Deloria ier avenue; Vice President, J. P. O'Harn; Recording Secretary, P. J. Finn, 15 Kent street; Financial Secretary, P. J. Fonnlis; Treasurer, John Traynor; Sergeant-at-acm; D. Ma hews n. Senjind, D. White; Marshal, F. Gechan; Delegates to Si. Pa rick's Le gue, T. J. Donovan, J. P. O'Harn, F. Gechan; hairman Standing Councittee, John Costello, A.O.H. Divisen No. 4 meets eve y 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, at 1113 Notre Dame street. Dame street.

C. M. B. A. of Canada.

# C.M.B.A. of Janada, Branch 26

(ORGANIZED, 13th November, 1883,) Branch 26 meets at St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St

Alexander Street, on every Mon my of each month The regular meetings for the transaction of business are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondars of the month. at & p. M.

Applicants for membership or any one desirous of information regarding the granch may communicate with the following officers: M. SHARKEY, resident, 1338 Notre Dame St. J. H. FEELEY, Treasurer, 719 Shorbrooke St. G. A. GADBOIS, Fin. Sec., 511 St. Lawr-nee St. JAS, J. COSTIGAN, Secretary, 325 St. Urbain St Total Abstinence Societies.

## ST. PATRICK'S T.A. & B. SOCIETY

The ball is open to the members and their friends The ball is open to the members and their friends every Lee day evening. The society meets for religious i struction in St. Patrick's Church, the second Sounday of each month at 4 30 p.m. The regular monthly meeting is held on the second Tuesday of each month, at 8 p.m., in their holl, 92 St. A transfer to REV. J. A. MCCALLEN, S.S., Rev. President; JOHN WALSH, 1st Vice-President; W P DOYLE, Secretary, 254 St. Marting street, Delegates to St. Patrick's League; Massrs, John Walsh, J. H. Feeley and William Rawley.

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