

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

AT ST. MICHAEL'S—The most beautiful of all the devotions of the Church, that of the "Forty Hours," was inaugurated at St. Michael's Cathedral on Sunday last. Special decorations had been prepared, and the Church was at its best. The Archbishop was in the Sanctuary and preached the sermon of the morning. High Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Marijou, C.S.B., assisted by deacon and sub-deacon. All the ceremonial which surrounds this now established annual exercise was carried out with the exactitude which characterizes the ceremonies of the Cathedral. In the evening the congregation filled the Church to overflowing. Rev. Father Marijou sang Vespers, and a sermon from the text "This is My body," was preached by Rev. Father Ryan. The choir under the direction of Mr. Miller, with Miss Le Maitre at the organ, rendered some excellent music. The "Cujus Animam," from Rossini's Stabat Mater, was sung with fine effect by Mr. Miller, and "O Salutaris," by Miss Foley, and a "Tantum Ergo" all excellently rendered, composed the musical part of the devotion. After Benediction, the vast congregation advanced to the altar rail and adored the Lord there present, in a special manner.

The Devotion continued until Wednesday, with particular exercises and sermons in the evening, in addition to the Masses of each day.

CHANGE IN STAFF—Rev. Doctor Treacy, who for some years past was stationed at the Cathedral, has been transferred to Dixie. Since the death of Rev. Father Benjin, the parish of Dixie has been in charge of the Rev. Doctor, and it is now rumored that the change is to be permanent. So quietly was the going of Father Treacy accomplished, that even yet many are in ignorance of it having taken place; should the transfer be permanent, then, indeed, will the Cathedral have sustained a very great loss. During his term at St. Michael's, Father Treacy had been a leading spirit in all that concerned the interests of the parish, all the energy that youth and an enthusiastic temperament could throw into his work was spent by him upon the spiritual, and often temporal needs of the people of the Cathedral parish. The children of the school, the Sunday-school classes, the boys of the Sanctuary and of the various societies of the parish, were all and each his particular care. The scholarly priest, who preached sermons among the most learned and eloquent that have ever echoed down the aisles of St. Michael's, and with equal facility whether in English, French or Italian, could also laugh the hearty laugh of a boy, and enter into the childish and youthful sports of the children of his parish and so they all loved him. The poor, too, will miss him, and the many who for the past eight years have profited by and enjoyed the highly spiritual and intellectual discourses and instructions of Doctor Treacy will experience a void great and unexpected. Dixie is certainly favored. The presence of Rev. Doctor Treacy in that parish means the loss to the city of one of its most scholarly and devoted priests.

DEATH OF MR. T. P. COFFEE—On Sunday morning, at her residence, 41 Maple Avenue, Rosedale, Toronto, occurred the death of Madeline Alice, wife of Mr. T. P. Coffee. The deceased lady was the daughter of the late Mr. Ben. Hughes, of this city, and sister of Mr. Vincent Hughes of Montreal. Mrs. Coffee was one of the most cultured and charming women in Toronto, and a member of one of its oldest Catholic families. She was married only about two years, and her early taking away is keenly felt by the many friends who had known her from childhood. The funeral takes place from the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes on Tuesday morning. May she rest in peace.

A VALUED BOOK—A most interesting sketch of Lady Georgina Fullerton and her works published in last week's issue of the True Witness, brought to mind one of her books not mentioned in the list quoted, one indeed seldom mentioned, and for that reason I speak of it here though the subject can claim no kin whatever to Toronto happenings. The title of the book is "Too Strange Not to be True," and it all find it

as interesting as your correspondent did, then is a most enjoyable hour in store for all who read the delightful tale. I read it when a child, and it remained in my childish category as the "nicest book I had ever read"; a few years ago I read it again, just to see if it still possessed its first flavor; I found it equally appealing. At this moment neither the plot nor character are very vividly before me, but the "after taste" of the book is still strong. Try it then, any who want a pleasant hour or two with Lady Georgina Fullerton.

A GOOD STORY—The following story came to hand lately, and as it is really good, and is vouched for as being authentic, I am going to give the readers of the "True Witness" the benefit of it. Not long ago, Archbishop Parrelly promised the boys in certain schools and institutions of New York that the one who came out best in a Catechism contest which he was about to inaugurate, should receive a watch as a reward of merit. Accordingly the boys set to work to win the coveted prize, and on the day appointed a number of priests and others interested were gathered together to witness the result. Representative boys from the different schools took their places in the line of contestants; the work went merrily on; one by one the boys were "plucked" by some pover and reluctantly took their seats, until at last only one of the large number remained on the floor. This lad was put through a rigid catechizing by His Grace himself, but he remained invulnerable; nothing seemed able to penetrate his armor of knowledge, in which he had encased himself. "Well, my lad," declared the prelate at last, "the watch is yours. What is your name?" "Solemon Jacobs," was the astonishing answer. "Are you a Catholic?" asked the Archbishop. "No," said the boy, "I am a Hebrew." "Then how does it happen that you know the Catechism so well?" "Oh!" said the lad, "I am a member of the same club as some of those boys, and I was here the night you promised the watch to the one who knew the Catechism best. I then made up my mind to get the watch."

ST. CECILIAS—About fifteen years ago a wooden building was erected at Toronto Junction, and for about half that period afterward it did double duty as Church and school house. The edifice was blessed on a Sunday morning, the congregation was not large, and the children from the neighboring school of St. Helen's walked through what seemed the bush, to take part in the functionly singing the Benediction. The late Vicar General Rooney performed the ceremony, assisted by Vicar General McCann, then parish priest of St. Helen's, with the Junction as an attached Mission. Eight years ago a small frame Church with seating capacity for two hundred and fifty was purchased and fitted up for the celebration of Mass. This is now the parish Church; it is bright and comfortable, and the statues and other appointments though small are dainty and altogether in keeping. The walls and confessional curtains are beginning to look faded, but as a new Church is probably in view sometime in the next years, those can be put up with. On Sunday last Father Dougherty, the assistant parish priest, stood within the porch as the people filed in to High Mass apparently having a word or smile of welcome for all. He afterwards said Mass and preached a very lucid sermon on the Gospel of the Day; the Rev. Father prefaced his sermon by remarking that the parents did not do their duty regarding the teaching of the Catechism to their children; justice and charity demanded they should do this, yet on examining the children he found this work often times altogether neglected. Father Dougherty also made some strong strictures on the drink habit, urging his listeners to refrain entirely from the vice, especially during Lent. The little choir sang the music of the Mass very pleasingly, under the direction of their organist, Miss McEnaney, who is doing good despite the disadvantage of not having a choir balanced in all the parts; Miss Lyla Middleton sang the leading solos of the Mass; an outside parish is seldom favored as St. Cecilia's in possessing a singer such as Miss Middleton. She sings in a trained, musical soprano voice of superior range

and compass. Her services in this line are given generously, as in addition to singing at High Mass she plays and trains the children for singing at the early Mass. Miss Middleton has lately won the Mason & Risch Scholarship and there are doubtless more laurels in store for the young lady. Those who like a nice ride and a pleasant change on Sunday morning may be commended to attend Mass at St. Cecilia's.

GREAT FIRES OF MODERN HISTORY.

Generally it has been supposed, says an American weekly newspaper, that the day when whole sections of a town could be swept away by fire was past, owing to modern improvements in building and to methods of fire extinction. But the recent catastrophe at Baltimore destroys faith in that belief. Of the serious conflagrations of the last century first to be mentioned, of course, is the Chicago fire of 1871, with its loss of \$190,000,000; the Boston fire of 1872, sustaining a loss of \$80,000,000; the Hamburg (Germany) fire of 1812, a loss of \$35,000,000; the Aldersgate street (London, England) fire of 1899, a loss of \$10,000,000; the great New York fire of 1835, a loss of \$30,000,000; the Bleeker street (New York) fire of 1891, a loss of \$7,000,000. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the European cities suffered conflagrations which differed from those of the present day in one respect.

During these centuries the cities of Northern Europe consisted of nothing more than a vast collection of squallid huts of logs, rushes, wattles and daub, grouped about a few magnificent buildings. Such was the London of Queen Elizabeth's day. The great fire in London in 1666, while it destroyed the greater part of that city, resulted in a loss much less than that of the Baltimore fire. It destroyed the miserable huts, but spared the Tower, Westminster and other notable buildings. Such, also, was pretty much the case with Moscow, when Napoleon arrived there. The Kremlin and several of the grand Cathedrals were very fine buildings, to be sure, but the greater portion of the city consisted of log cabins. In fact, from about the middle of the seventeenth century down to 1835 nearly every one of the great European capitals suffered from fire, and, as a result, arose from their ashes more substantial than before.

To-day there is only one city left in Europe which remains just as it stood prior to 1600, and that is Constantinople. If anyone should desire to know what London or Edinburgh, Paris, Amsterdam, or Moscow were like, both as regards buildings and fire protection, prior to the beginning of the eighteenth century, all he need do is visit Constantinople. There he will find the old-fashioned, unpaid, volunteer fire companies, with their hand-power engines, about over the city, the vast area of wooden hovels, with a few magnificent buildings, just as they were in London in the days of good Queen Bess. Mr. Curtis, in his work entitled "The Turk and His Lost Provinces," describes a fire which he once attended in Constantinople, the alarm of which was given by one of the watchmen in one of the wooden towers, the nearest company responding accompanied by a great rabble.

When they arrived at the scene one building (a store) was in flames, and several more were threatened. The proprietors of the shops adjoining were frantic to have the firemen begin operations at once, but they could not at first agree on the price. The firemen wanted a certain sum for the good of their organization, which the merchants regarded as extortionate. While they wrangled over the price of fire protection, the flames rapidly encroached on the very properties they were so anxious to save, so finally, in desperation, the merchants agreed upon the amount, which was forthwith collected on the spot by the captain of the company before a hand was turned towards checking the flames. Then the firemen set to work and put out the fire.

Fires are productive of some curious results. Just after the Iroquois Theatre fire in Chicago, a writer in one of the Eastern papers called attention to the fact that it was quite possible to render the scenery of a theatre completely fireproof. He quoted proofs showing that over 80 years ago after a serious theatre fire

in one of the Eastern cities, one of the best known theatrical managers of that period had the scenery, as well as the stage floors of his playhouse, treated with a certain cheap chemical. When this was done a stream of burning gas was directed against both scenery and floor, the result being that while the parts on which the flames was directed crumbled and fell to pieces, it did not burn nor did the crumbling extend farther than the parts affected by the intense heat of the burning gas. A'out twenty years ago another serious fire destroyed the greater portion of the business section of a large manufacturing city on the western slope of the Appalachians. It started in the basement of a large department store, and before the saleswomen and clerks could leave the building the flames had reached the upper floors, and several persons were cut off from the stairs. As a result they were finally driven by heat and smoke out of the windows, and lost their lives jumping to the pavement below. Immediately following this an inventive genius set his wits to work, and invented a most ingenious contrivance for leaving a burning building. It consisted of nothing more than a long and stout rope, run through a peculiar check pulley. All that one had to do to escape from a burning building was simply to make one end of this arrangement fast to something in the room, attach the proper end about his waist, and cast himself out of the window. For the first six or eight feet his descent would be quite rapid, but the farther he descended, the slower his speed, the check pulley operating in such fashion as to arrest a rapid descent on the part of the person attached to the end. Several persons, the inventor included, descended by this means from the top of tall buildings in perfect safety, and the safety and utility of the device were publicly demonstrated in several places. But by the time he set out to sell his contrivances, people had forgotten about the fire, and he received no encouragement whatever; what few he sold hardly paying him for the time and energy he had wasted in their invention.

A NEW HOTEL—There is every indication that Ottawa is going to have a million dollar hotel. The New York World says: "A syndicate of New York men has been formed for the purpose of building a new \$1,000,000 hotel in Ottawa, Canada, next spring. John H. Langton, manager of the Hotel Spaulding, and Colonel Montgomery, of this city and London, are the prime movers in the scheme." A local organ here has the following comment on the subject: "The site generally agreed upon is the Clewley property bounded by Rideau street, Mackenzie avenue and Sussex street. Chief Powell, who is interested in the management of this property, when the New York World item was read to him, said: "It is true that several American capitalists have been making negotiations regarding this property as a hotel site, but none of the names mentioned in the article are upon my list. However, I wouldn't be surprised if it is the same company."

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

St. Patrick's Society will hold a banquet, as usual, at the Windsor Hotel. The tickets are now in circulation.

St. Ann's Young Men's Society will hold their annual celebration of the National festival in their own hall on Ottawa street.

The Young Irishmen's Literary and Benefit Association are preparing for their celebration of the Day which will take place in the Monument Nationale.

Rev. Dr. Luke Callaghan has arranged for the fitting celebration of the National festival by the parishioners of the mother Irish parish, old and young, at the Windsor Hall.

The afternoon will be devoted to the presentation of a spirited Irish drama by the pupils of St. Patrick's School, for the benefit of the boys and girls; in the evening a historic and spectacular scene laid in Ireland several centuries ago will be staged. Irish music, instrumental and vocal, will also be a striking feature.

Parishes and societies or institutions, holding celebrations in honor of Ireland's National Day, should send us some notes of their proposed celebrations if they desire to have their entertainments noticed in the True Witness.

Local societies and parishes should not fail to avail themselves of our advertising columns. A few dollars for advertising will be profitably spent, as all Irish families who send representatives to public demonstrations on such occasions are readers of the "True Witness."

SYMPATHY OF POPE PIUS.

Cardinal Gibbons, who is in New Orleans on a visit, has received the following telegram from Cardinal Merry del Val, Papal Secretary of State, regarding the recent fire in Baltimore:

"Holy Father sympathizes deeply in the great affliction which has overcome your episcopal city, and inquires about your health."

"MERRY DEL VAL."

Cardinal Gibbons has replied as follows:

"Profound thanks to Holy Father for paternal message. Baltimore's loss by fire probably \$100,000,000."

"CARDINAL GIBBONS."

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

(By Our Own Correspondent.)

THE APPROACHING SESSION.—Although the session is almost at hand, there is nothing around the Capital or the Parliament Buildings to indicate an abnormal state of affairs. There is considerable speculation as to the probable duration of the session. So far ninety-four notices have been given of private bills. This time last year there were over one hundred and fifty. The most important of these that are now on the list is that which concerns the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Bill. It reads as follows:

"Notice is hereby given that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company will apply to the Parliament of Canada, at the next session thereof, for an act amending the provisions of the act incorporating the said Company, in so far as they relate to the powers conferred upon the directors, of issuing paid up capital stocks defining the powers of the provisional directors and confirming the action of the said directors in entering into an agreement or agreements on behalf of the said Company with His Majesty the King, represented by the Minister of Railways for the Dominion of Canada, and other acts and proceedings of the provisional directors of the said company."

This means the bulk of the session's work; for, apart from the estimates, the amendments to this now famous bill will constitute the great bone of contention. There being no tariff changes, it is not likely that the session will last over three months.

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The Chinese Gamblers.—A Chinese gambling resort has been in full blast here for a long time past, but it was raided on Sunday. It would seem that from all over Canada Chinese gamblers came here to risk their money. A visit to the police station on Sunday night would have imagined himself in the heart of Chinatown. Curled up on benches in the cells which lead off the dingy corridors were nineteen Chinamen, as the result of the sensational raid made on the gambling place.

HOME FOR INCURABLES.—The question of establishing a Catholic

home for incurables was brought up by Rev. Canon McCarthy at the quarterly meeting of the English-speaking conferences of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul on Sunday afternoon. The need of such an institution was impressed upon the members by the reverend speaker and it was discussed in a general way, the meeting agreeing with the proposition. No definite step in the matter was taken, however, but it will be carefully considered. Reports were submitted in respect to the work among the poor during the past three months, and while on account of the severity of the season there has been a good deal of hardship the work afforded by the removal of the great quantities of snow has furnished money to keep the ladders of many of the poor going, and applications for fuel have not been abnormal.

Sunday morning the members of the different conferences attended Mass and received Communion in a body.

OBITUARIES.—A despatch from

Bouchette, on the Upper Gatineau, announces the sudden death of Rev. Father Isidore Garon, parish priest of that place. The deceased priest who was a highly esteemed and most zealous missionary, was born at Rimouski in 1857, and ordained priest in 1892. He is a brother of Rev. Father Paul Garon, parish priest of Masham, also on the Upper Gatineau. The two brothers, whose parishes were in the wild regions of the North, have done immense work for the diocese of Ottawa. His Grace the Archbishop will personally officiate at the funeral service, and thus pay tribute to the memory of the good priest whom God has called away so suddenly.

JEW IN IRELAND.

The Dublin Irishman, in a recent issue, notes the increase of the Jews in Ireland:

"Twenty years ago we had few Jews in Ireland. To-day we have Jewish magistrates to teach us respect for the glorious constitution under which we exist; Jewish lawyers to look after our affairs, and Jewish money-lenders to accommodate us; Jewish tailors to clothe us; Jewish photographers to take our pictures; Jewish brokers to furnish our houses and Jewish auctioneers to sell us up in the end for the benefit of all our other Jewish benefactors."

DISPENSATION CATHOLICS.

"There are Catholics whose idea of being up in their faith consists of a knowledge of what is the minimum religion demands that we believe. There are Catholics whose study of the Lenten regulations is a search after dispensations."

THEIR VICTORY.

The Sacred Heart Review says: "Fifteen old veterans of the Civil War, in the Michigan Soldiers' Home have been received into the Catholic Church."

DENTIST.

Walter G. Kennedy, Dentist, 383 Dorchester Street, CORNER MANFIELD

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I must also record for you the death of Mr. Joseph Nelligan, a promising young man of only 21 years, and one of the brightest of the rising generation of youthful Irish Catholics in Ottawa. Deceased was born in Gloucester and moved to Ottawa at an early age. He resided at 116 Cambridge street, and is survived by a mother, four brothers and two sisters. The brothers are Messrs. Richard and William, of the Ottawa Fire Department; also Joseph and Michael. Mrs. Michael Carney is a sister, as is Miss Bridget Nelligan. Deceased was the son of the late Joseph Nelligan and grandson of the late John McCabe. The late Michael McCabe, who was at one time a member of the famous Shamrock lacrosse team of Bytown, was an uncle of deceased. The deceased was very highly esteemed by all who knew him, and his untimely demise occasions much sympathy for the bereaved family.

He was a member of St. Patrick's congregation, and from that Church the funeral took place on Monday last to Notre Dame Cemetery. R.I.P. Many considerations arise close study of this information would appear that out of guns only thirty-six are a quick-firing pattern. This may be compared with the ment that has been made, faith of German reports of origin, that the whole of lery to be employed again "is now armed with g guns." Both the Russian Japanese artillery are at the stage of transition, and is more difficult than to secure information of the re-armorment of a fore lery. The new pattern 3-in firing Russian field gun is of manufacture, and the ex- lar of batteries issued to is not known. The same re- plies to the new Arisaka qu field gun of Japan, at pre- construction at the Osaka al is, however, probable that will make superhuman effo- bring the largest number of new guns into the field. fact may account for the run- the movements of Russian from garrisons like Lodz, o German frontier, which wou- rally have been the first to the new material so long- was no danger of war in th We must remember, however, wholesale change in the arti- ment entails the transport- only of the new guns, but of munition columns and parks, when such change is effected, personal must either be repli-

RUSSIA V... The reports received correspondents of the in a position to supply formation enable us to step towards penetra- tomary veil of myste- shrouds the proceed- sian armies in the field. Until evidence is giv- the very complete ar- summary of the Russ- of Lake Baikal, sent correspondent of the 21, the estimate of a given holds the fields. the available troops. the correspondent pla- strength on the data 000 men and 266 guns must be regarded as in the art of militar- and as a model of ac- cise reporting. A cri- tion of the very comple- in this remarkable to- serves to confirm its a- almost every point. It includes the whole of the First and Se- Army Corps and of military district, lesi- troops, frontier guar- forces not included in the now present in East A. The names or number- mal garrisons of all the known in England, and tion concerning them be rigorously checked. in question, contains pr- count has been taken of changes in Russian mil- zation in the Far East, merates regiments whi- been formed during weeks on the strength quite recent date. We are also enable- time to ascertain whi- in the West is being dr- reinforcements. Of fo- the first two belong to Russian Army Corps of district, and the remain- Seventeenth or Moscow. Whether the remaining o- corps are under order- move eastward there is nothing to show.