

TESTIS IN CÆLO FIDELIS

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AND
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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE London Daily News remarks that "nothing is more favorable to the success of a political or social reform than a large hostile majority in the House of Lords." There is more truth than poetry in these words. We believe that the action of the Lords with regard to the Home Rule Bill is the very best evidence of the absolute necessity of such a measure. When an institution, organized and constituted as is the House of Lords, stands between the people and their most elementary constitutional rights, it is a sign that there is one wheel too many to the chariot of state; and in an empire like that of Great Britain the sooner the fifth wheel is removed the better for the national future. There is such a thing as relying too much upon a power that was once the gift of a monarch but which to day is subject to the ratification of the people.

WE received a very polite, but very ironical postal card from the Seigneur of Montebello, Mr. Papineau, in which he commends us for our religious zeal and many other qualities. He asks the name of "the candid and able writer" of the articles in the TRUE WITNESS. They are written by the editor, and there is no necessity that he should put his name to each of them. He is, however, highly flattered by the attention paid his effusion, and only hopes that, when the first moments of personal indignation are over, Mr. Papineau will reflect somewhat seriously upon the extraordinary incidents that called forth his remarks. Perhaps the meditation might have some beneficial effect.

IT IS STATED that a third edition of the Latin poems, by the Sovereign Pontiff, will soon be published. The volume is entitled "Leonis, P. P. XIII. : Carmina et Inscriptiones." Two small poems, not in the former editions, will appear in this one. The preface is a review of the Pope's literary studies and work. Professor Brunelli, an intimate friend and companion of His Holiness, is the author of the introduction. It is wonderful how versatile the genius of Leo XIII. He seems to combine, in himself, all the talents of the great men, any one of which would serve to immortalize another individual. He is a poet, an orator, an historian, an essayist, a philosopher, a statesman and a theologian. Wonderful man!

AS SOME of our friends may be anxious to know if anything is being done in the matter of school-inspectorship, we may as well inform our readers that the matter is in good and proper hands. All the documents and evidence required to push the case, at the proper moment, have been collected and given to personages of influence and weight, who are taking the requisite steps to have the matter favorably considered by the Government and to have the appointment made at the earliest convenience.

We may also state that we have taken steps in the same direction which will probably lead to the end in view. These movements are not made by electricity, but they are all the surer for being slower and exact. It took several months before we succeeded in obtaining an Irish Catholic representative on the Board, but it finally came. Unless we are greatly mistaken the other appointment will just as certainly come in due time. The reason we refer to it in this issue is because many of our readers have the peculiar idea that when we are not constantly writing about a subject it is a sign we have allowed it to die out. There is a time for everything; first for agitating in the press, and second, for action, in other lines.

Nor long ago a French bishop wrote a small book on Freemasonry. Some gentleman of that loving and brotherly fraternity took an action for libel against the bishop, and the judgment condemned the prelate to pay heavy damages. This result was not at all surprising in France. But when the case came before the Court of Appeal at Montpellier the sentence was reversed, and, as an exchange expresses it, "the Knights of the Billy Goat were obliged to pay the piper." The bishop's pamphlet must have struck the nail pretty fairly on the head when the remarks and revelations therein made called forth an action at law from individual members of the order.

THE Ottawa Free Press has an ingenious way of advertising a book and at the same time the local bookseller at whose stall it may be found. Perhaps it is merely an accident in this case, but whether so or not, it is none the less a sure way of drawing the reader's attention to the store. In speaking of "The Prince of India," the new novel, by General Lew Wallace, our Ottawa contemporary has the following mixture:

"Its vivid human interests are not confined to the epoch in which its most stirring action occurs—the fifteenth century and the ruin of the Eastern Empire before the aggressive Mahometan. Alf. H. Jarvis, Bank street, stationer, bookseller and newdealer. Political intrigue and romantic passion, schism and conspiracy, military life in camp and in the citadel, earnest debate upon creed and state policies, royal loves and fervid ambitions—all have their place in the book."

MUCH as the Jesuits are hated and calumniated by the enemies of religion, and great as have been the persecutions against them in France, we find that the French Government has created the Jesuits Roblet and Collin, Chevaliers of the Legion of Honor. Father Roblet is famed for his works on geology and topography, and Father Collin is the founder of the Tananarivo observatory. When the Jesuits reached Madagascar in 1861, there was not one Catholic there. To-day there are one hundred and thirty thousand. They have a cathedral, three hundred churches, four hundred stations and schools. There are some eighteen

thousand pupils amongst the Catholics there. Wonderful work these men have been doing, not only for the cause of religion but also for that of general civilization.

REFERRING to the coming celebration of the 20th September in Rome, of which we speak editorially, the London Univer has the following very appropriate remark:—

"Freemasonry, whose persistent notion is to raise altar against altar, is about to publicly insult the Papacy in its seat. The Grand Orient of Italy has declared that it will inaugurate on the 20th of September—the anniversary of the taking of Rome—its new central offices in the Borghese Palace. The masonic flag will be hoisted on the nefast date over the balcony from which Pope Paul V. was wont to give his benediction to the people. The devil is the ape of God, and Freemasonry, under his inspiration, opposes to the cross of Christ the standard of Satan."

THE Baltimore Mirror, in a short article, under the heading "Carping at Priests," gives some very timely advice, and we feel that some of it might benefit a certain class of individuals that may be found in nearly every parish. Our contemporary says:—

"In every congregation there are a few chronic croakers who manage to find fault with all that goes on in the parish. These malcontents bestow a large share of their sneering criticisms on the pastor and discern some flaw in everything he does from preaching and saying Mass to combing his hair and tying his shoestrings. They make too free with the Lord's anointed. True it is that the people lightly look up to their priests for the highest model of a Christian life, and measure their actions on the rules of the Gospel. They rejoice and are invigorated in virtue when they see their pastor mortified, charitable, patient, humble laborious. They are grief-stricken and discouraged should he fail to set the best example in every respect. But the inevitable observation of the pastor's demeanor is very different from the cavilling scrutiny which must be censured. The priesthood is an awful dignity. It surpasses incomparably the ministry of the angels. It is among the wonders of God's ways."

There is a certain class of Catholics—they are happily the exceptions—who seem to make it their business to go about seeking to find every fault possible in the clergy and to spread the news broadcast in the community. Regular cranks upon the subject of priestly errors, they become perfect bores in society. If a person only knew how detestable to Catholic and how contemptible in the eyes of Protestants he becomes, he would let the clergy alone and learn Christian charity.

IT is expected that His Excellency Lord Aberdeen, the new Governor General of Canada, will reach Quebec by Friday or Saturday next. Preparations there, in Montreal and Ottawa, are being made for his reception and that of his noble lady. If ever the Irish Catholics of this country should do honor to a representative of the Sovereign, it is certainly in the case of Lord Aberdeen. Never before, perhaps, was any position

of the British Empire placed under the Governorship of a man who has shown more sympathy with the aspirations of Irish people, and never has a lady come to this country who has done more for the amelioration of the condition of the Irish race, than has Lady Aberdeen. We trust they shall receive a right royal welcome.

WE always feel flattered when our articles are reproduced and certainly feel grateful for the appreciation; however, there are certain organs that have peculiar methods of their own of paying compliments to their confreres. For example, there is one journal, within almost speaking distance of Montreal, that uses our editorials regularly; sometimes without any statement as to whence they come; at other times with the general remark that "a contemporary has the following." But while we do not object even to this style of questionable compliment, we decidedly do object to being held responsible for what we never wrote, and what never appeared in our columns. For example, the Canadian-American, of Chicago, in its issue of August 19th, under the heading "Canadian Gold," and with the remark, "from the MONTREAL TRUE WITNESS," gives its readers the following:

"The currency of Canada is based upon gold, and yet it is a remarkable fact that we should have for our gold coins the money of a foreign nation and the inharmonious sterling coinage of the mother country. With a gold coin of our own, in which our Dominion notes would invariably be redeemed, there would be no basis for complaint. The cost would not be great, while the advantages would be many. It is time that our monetary system should be completed. We have a banking system to be proud of. Our financial system requires but the corner stone of a Canadian gold coinage, which we would like to see made as soon as possible. As long as it was not made legal tender in the United States, it would remain with us as satisfactorily as our present sovereigns and eagles."

Scarcely necessary to say that the above never appeared in THE TRUE WITNESS. Much as we should like to have a gold coin of the Dominion, still we do not wish to receive credit for what we have not done. By our editorial of this week on the "American Crisis," it will be easily seen what we think of our splendid banking system; but we decline the honor of having spoken of "our present sovereigns and eagles." Such coin is as rare in Canada as are real sovereigns and eagles; of the former a stray one may sometimes pass through the country and generally incog; of the latter there are but very few; the eagle is a *rara avis* on this side of the Rockies.

THE Columbian number of the Cosmopolitan is exceptionally fine. In fact we consider it the best that has yet been published. The illustrations are perfection and the word painting corresponds with the artistic beauty of the engravings. It is indeed a gem that is worthy of preservation.