

AN ERA OF SELF

A Picture of a Montreal Saturday Night.

Drunkenness on the Increase—Sad Scenes Witnessed on Leading Thoroughfares—A Lamentable Lack of Public Spirit—The Reigning Passion of Selfishness and Greed for Riches Supersedes all Else—The Apathy of the Police—The Feebleness of Local Organizations—The Reputation of the City at Stake.

Sad, pitiful, and discouraging, to the observant citizen who takes an interest in the moral and social welfare of Montreal, are the scenes to be witnessed almost nightly, but particularly at a late hour on a Saturday night, in some of the leading thoroughfares of the city, on St. Lawrence Street and Notre Dame and Craig Streets, for example.

The besetting sins which characterize large aggregations of population—drunkenness and vice—are in painfully palpable evidence here not only at such an hour, but far into the early portion of the Lord's Day, the day of religious observance and of physical rest. So familiar have these sights become to the ordinary citizen whose avocation necessitates his passing through the thoroughfares indicated, that he has long ceased to pay any special heed to them. And he is consequently far from realizing that Montreal is year by year, despite the sustained and increasingly active efforts of religion, making steady progress in the ways which have earned an unsavory reputation for other cities with which Montrealers would feel inclined to object that theirs should be compared. Scores of men, and not a few women, are to be seen leaving saloons in an advanced stage of intoxication, often at a time when these drinking shops should, according to the law, be closed; and women and even young girls, whose gait and mien proclaim their nameless occupation, are met at almost every turn, displaying their wicked wiles with impunity.

In this motley collection are to be found representatives of many classes and of many states of life—the father to whose squandered earnings a family has both a moral and a legal right; the young man on whom a widowed mother or an invalid sister depends for her daily bread; the husband whose wife, whom he has vowed to love and cherish, awaits in vain for his arrival with the money needed for the provision of the necessities of life; the girl or woman, whose fall from virtue, through the machinations of some heartless libertine, is the cause of abiding sorrow and disgrace to parents and relatives; the "sport," the only aim and end of whose existence is sensual enjoyment of every description, to procure which he spends freely either his own or somebody else's money. Ribald and blasphemous ejaculations grate upon the ear now and then; and not infrequently a hand-to-hand fight lends a variant element to the spectacle. The fact cannot be denied that drunkenness and vice and crime of other kinds have of late years been increasing in Montreal in a degree out of all proportion to the augmentation of its population. Is it not time that public attention were called to this grave condition of things, in order that the causes which have contributed to bring it about, and the means for removing those causes and for remedying their present baleful effects, may be discussed?

Undoubtedly, one of the principal causes is the non-enforcement of the law by the civic authorities. This culpable failure to enforce the regulations which have been drawn up for the purpose of securing order and good government in the community has come to us in the form of a bad example from many of the cities of the United States, where it has long been a social curse. It is the plain duty of the Montreal police to see that saloon-keepers obey the law relating to their traffic; but it is never performed; or, if it is performed, it is only in a few isolated cases. The superintendent of the force has been known to state that it was not the duty of his men to enforce this law; but the law itself explicitly states that it is. If this law were rigidly put in force a good deal of evil would be prevented. The bars would be closed on Sundays, which would be a great boon, and they would be closed at an early hour during the remainder of the week, which would be another. No intoxicating liquor would be sold to minors. And cans of beer and bottles of whiskey and gin would not be daily furnished to young errand girls and boys, on whose receptive minds the seductive sight of the bar-room, with its wealth of bright lights, its polished mirrors, its more attractive than decent pictures, its carefully arranged rows of bottles with multi-colored labels and fancy capuled corks, and its false but alluring air of cheerfulness, would not, as they do now, exercise a dangerous influence which may have disastrous results in the years that are to come. If the police compelled observance of the municipal by-laws vice would not be so rampant in our midst as it is. At present no attempt is made to lessen the ravages of the social evil.

The only way to secure compliance with the law is to create and foster a public sentiment favorable to the enforcement of its provisions. Such a sentiment, it is unnecessary to remind the readers of the TRUE WITNESS, should have as its foundation the principle of love for our neighbors which was laid down by the Divine Founder of the Church, and which its accredited ministers never cease to inculcate. The absence of this righteous public sentiment is due to that indifference to the welfare of others which is born of

human selfishness. That this unchristian selfishness largely prevails amongst us is shown by a glance at the general conduct of the moneyed class towards the poor class. All around us there are indications—not openly expressed, it is true, but clearly enough implied—that the old notion, by which the rich regarded the poor as mere instruments to be used for their welfare, has not been entirely stamped out. True, the idea no longer finds itself embodied in the law; and in recent years the condition of the worker exhibits unmistakable signs of great improvement. Nevertheless, it must not be supposed that this improvement is altogether the outcome of a generous desire on the part of men to recognize the claims of their neighbors upon their sympathy and love, although it is largely due to such a desire. The more equal distribution of power and of opportunity has had much to do with it. The greatest obstacle to the creation of the wholesome and salutary Christian sentiment, the existence of which is necessary to the enforcement of law and order, is the passionate and selfish pursuit of personal success by the majority of our business men. Each success opens up the possibility of still further success, and increased range of vision usually means increased desire, a longing to press forward and grasp, at all hazards, the new possibilities held out; for he that loveth abundance is not satisfied with increase; gratification but whets the appetite of desire. So absorbed does the business man become, as a rule, in the furtherance of his own material welfare, that soon his nature becomes almost wholly materialized. As a thoughtful English writer says:—"The excellency of the social state does not lie in the fulness with which wealth is produced and accumulated, but in the fact that it is so distributed as to give the largest comfort and the widest hope to the general mass of those whose continued efforts constitute the present industry of the nation, and the abiding prospect of its future well-being." This statement, however, is but a half-truth. The excellency of the social state lies in the extent to which its laws are founded upon the principles of religion, and enforced from a sense of religious duty.

No movement started for the purpose of enforcing the enforcement of law in Montreal can succeed unless it is initiated by and obtains the active support of the representatives of the majority of its citizens. Associations with this laudable object in view have existed in the past, and there are others in existence to-day. But they have made no progress towards the desired end; and this because they were formed of representatives of a minority, who, though well-intentioned, have been unhelpfully aggressive considering their numbers, and because they have never obtained the co-operation of those who represent the majority.

[CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.]

AN IDEAL RECEPTION

Rev. J. E. Donnelly, the talented pastor of St. Anthony's, was then introduced by the Grand Chancellor and rendered a most enthusiastic reception. Father Donnelly, who was the first spiritual director of the first branch of the organization established in this Province, occupied but a few moments in the task of assuring the audience that he was an earnest admirer of the C.M.B.A. He has a happy and easy method of steering clear of what some people are inclined to call glittering generalities in dealing with a question, and impresses his listeners with the marked disposition to grapple with facts. Father Donnelly's deliverance was chiefly devoted to the advantages derived from membership in the Association, from a moral, intellectual and social standpoint. In referring to the latter feature, he said that the cream of Catholic society in this city was associated with the organization. In every walk of life, in the professions, in trade and commerce, in manufactures, in agriculture, were to be found the representatives of the C.M.B.A. He drew a vivid picture of the great work of the Church in fostering societies. Many of them, said he, have disappeared through one cause or another, but among all these societies or combinations of Catholic men, having for their aim the good of humanity, there was none which occupied a higher rank than the C.M.B.A. He also eulogized the great achievement of the noble and saintly founder of the Association, the late Bishop Ryan, of Buffalo, whose name, he said, would be always revered.

Father Donnelly, in closing, made a powerful appeal to the young men to associate themselves with the C.M.B.A., which possessed all the facilities both for their spiritual and temporal welfare.

The event of the evening then took place. Mr. J. J. Costigan, one of the secretaries, read the following address of welcome to the Hon. Mr. Hackett. It was printed on a light tint of green satin and exquisitely placed on a brass frame:

To the Hon. M. F. HACKETT, M. L. A., Grand President, C.M.B.A., Grand Council of Canada.

HON. DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—On this auspicious occasion permit us to give expression to our heartfelt pleasure, in welcoming you to our midst. It is our privilege to congratulate you on having attained well-earned promotion to the highest office in our brotherhood. The C.M.B.A. of Canada counts amongst its membership many of our Dominion's best and brightest sons, whose names will figure in the history of our land. In greeting you, we extend a welcome to one who has already achieved a proud position in the profession of his choice, and whose marked ability and genial qualities must command still higher honors. We are always gratified at the success of any member of the C.M.B.A., but in your case, the reasons for rejoicing are not a few. We do not forget that, in the great struggle of the past, your eloquent voice was never silent when needed to vindicate the true principles of the association and earnestly urge the adoption of such a course of action as would ensure a solid basis for a prosperous future. You spared no pains, and the services rendered were always given with such good will and heartiness, that it was a pleasure to accept them. Under your presidency we are confident of better days for the association, to which we are

satisfied you will devote your energetic ability in the past. Please accept the assurance of our highest esteem and affection; may your days be long and happy, and may Divine Providence extend to you and your family its many blessings.

Signed on behalf of the Seventeen Branches in the City and District of Montreal:

Grand Chancellor, T. J. FINN, Chairman.
Chan'lor A. GERMAIN, M. D.
Jas. J. COSTIGAN, Sec. Vice.
T. A. DENIGER, Sec. Vice.
Montreal, 28th October, 1896.

A similar address in French was also read, after which the Grand President, in the midst of great applause, began his reply.

Hon. Mr. Hackett, who was suffering from a severe attack of hoarseness at the commencement of his speech, gradually recovered the full use of his fine musical voice, and fairly electrified the immense gathering by his wonderful gifts as a speaker. The one glad note which permeated his masterly deliverance was the elevation of the Catholic masses, not as an aggressive faction against other creeds, but on the broad lines of peace and for the betterment of their rank and position in the community. He said:

I can hardly find words to fitly express the pleasure and pride which I feel on this happy occasion. To have the opportunity of meeting so numerous a representation of the Brethren of the great City of Montreal is, indeed, a pleasure which is only transcended by the pride that I feel at so tangible an evidence of the wondrous growth and power of the Association over which I have the honor to preside. In fact, when I look around me and note the numbers and the respectability of the brethren who have gathered here to-day to extend to me the hand of welcome and fraternity, I am inclined to marvel that one so undeserving as myself should have been chosen to fill the exalted and responsible office to which I have been raised by your untrammelled wish. I can only pray that I may be enabled to do my duty in a way that will at least leave you no occasion to regret the honor done me.

There is much satisfaction, however, for me in the reflection that in all the efforts I may make to advance the interests of the Association, which is deservedly so dear to us all, I can rely upon receiving the full benefit of your heartiest sympathy and support. In what direction should those efforts tend? This is a question which I have often seriously pondered, but I come always to the same conclusion—that what we chiefly need to cultivate as much as possible is a greater, broader and deeper spirit of union and fraternity among Catholics. The C.M.B.A. affords the necessary machinery for this purpose; its organization is excellent and its ramifications are already so extensive that it may be said to embrace the entire country. It brings within the reach of our co-religionists opportunities for union, fraternization and mutual improvement, which are unsurpassed and which no element, desirous of winning and retaining the respect of the other elements of the community, should neglect. One of the world's great thinkers has said that "men are mystically united; that a mystic bond of brotherhood makes all men one." But when to their natural bond is superadded that of a body like the C.M.B.A., one of whose principal aims is the cultivation of the spirit of union and fraternity between its membership, it is easy to see how this sense of brotherhood is advantageously intensified. Moreover, we live in an age of combination, when individual effort is, so to speak, powerless, and when a union of all the forces available is necessary to attain given ends. In the C.M.B.A. we have an exemplification of this union, and I think I do not exaggerate when I say that the remarkable growth of the order and its present widespread ramifications are substantial proof that it has supplied a real want among Catholics of all origins in this country, and that it is realizing its great and noble mission. That mission is to a large extent the cultivation of a wider and deeper spirit of fraternity between those who worship at the same altar and whose interests are, so to speak, common. Fraternity has been described as the reciprocal affection, the sentiment which inclines man to do unto others as he would that others should do unto him. To inculcate this sentiment, and to give it practical shape and effort, is the great object of an organization like this, and how far it has succeeded in attaining it can be judged by gatherings such as the present. Here we have, brought together by the mere force of the fraternal bond of the C.M.B.A., men of different races and qualities, who, under other circumstances, might never have come into contact with each other, and who thereby learn to know each other better and to take a deeper and kinder interest in each other's welfare. A spirit of brotherly regard and mutual interdependence is thus begotten, the vast advantages of which cannot be overestimated. High and low, rich and poor, are equally embraced in the fraternal bond of our membership, all class lines are effaced; and we present to the world the spectacle of a great Catholic body, knowing no race or other distinction except that of faith, and thoroughly cemented together in a brotherhood of love for our moral and material good. Well, indeed, may we take pride in such an Association, when we bend all our efforts to extend its salutary influence. Need I say that a movement of the kind should have the active sympathy and co-operation of the leaders of Catholic opinion throughout the land. Of these we have happily not a few who are a credit to their faith and their country. Indeed Canada has produced many eminent Catholics, many great men, who sincerely desire the elevation of the masses of their co-religionists and the benefit of whose assistance and example would be inestimable in a connection like this. To such men, the C.M.B.A. affords a precious means of attaining their desired end, and I earnestly appeal to them to take advantage of it as soon as possible. It will bring them into direct contact with all classes of their co-religionists, whom it is not possible for them to reach through other channels, and the educating influence of such Association would be more valuable. The innate politeness of our French Canadian fellow countrymen has often been remarked. Politeness and courtesy

seem to come natural to even the most illiterate among them. But if one of their noted writers is to be believed, these do not proceed from any special disposition, but from early associations. It is related that, in the infant days of the colony, when self-protection was the great necessity of the hour, the *seigneurs* were brought into daily and hourly contact with their *seigneurs*, their priest, their notary and their medical men, the result being that the settlers gradually, and almost unconsciously, acquired the more polished manners of their educated superiors and have since handed them down from generation to generation. And as by associating with their co-religionists of all classes in the C.M.B.A., would the superior Catholic minds of our own day beneficially influence their surroundings and inspire them with higher thoughts and more ennobling aims. In fact, I think that I cannot lay too much stress upon the mutual advantage derivable from the extension of the membership of the C. M. B. A. among all practical Catholics. Nor is there any reason for our separated brethren, our Protestant friends, to view a movement of this kind with distrust. Far from aiming at the consolidation of the Catholic body for purposes of aggression or encroachment upon the rights of any other element, the C.M.B.A. only seeks the elevation of the Catholic masses, their moral, intellectual and material advancement, and in so desirable a result, which will conduce to the greater good of all, every element is interested. Indeed all high thinking minds will wish the C.M.B.A. God speed in its noble mission. Already, all over the land, its salutary influence is felt. This is evidenced by its ever increasing numbers and strength, which are not a menace to kindred Associations, because there is field enough for all, and the C. M. B. A. covers ground that can be reached by no other. As for the members of the Association themselves, there is something inspiring for them in the thought that they belong to a body which throws the mantle of its protection over them from the Atlantic to the Pacific and which makes them feel that they are sure to find brothers and friends wherever they go. They are also to be congratulated on the fact that they are members of an organization which has the approval of their pastors and which is a credit to their Faith. Let them therefore cherish it as an institution that not only does them honor, but enhances their influence. Let them above all cultivate that fraternal spirit which constitutes the great strength and usefulness of all the Associations of the kind. It is unnecessary for me, I think, to further enlarge upon the benefits of our order and its remarkable growth and vitality. These are well known to you all. But, while thanking you once more for your splendid reception, I may be permitted to express the hope that the day is not far distant when the Canadian membership of the order will recognize but one jurisdiction and that we shall all combine to form but one great Canadian Catholic body, whose beneficial influence will extend all over the Dominion. With our brethren in the United States we are in full sympathy, but we believe that Canada is able to govern itself in this as in other respects, and it would conduce to the greater good of all if the Canadian branches were all united under a single head. Before concluding, let me repeat, gentlemen, the great pleasure I have in meeting and making the acquaintance of the Montreal Brethren. I am proud to see the C.M.B.A. so powerfully represented in the commercial metropolis of the country, and to be able to carry your fraternal greetings to the brethren in Quebec, with whom I will have the pleasure of dining to-morrow evening. The ancient capital may not be able to compare with Montreal in most respects, but I can assure you that there are few places where our order is in a more flourishing condition and where its brotherhood is more warmly or thoroughly appreciated.

Hon. Mr. Hackett also replied in French, after which the gathering dispersed.

THE OLD LAND.

Its Historic Memorials and Charming Scenes Ably Described by Mr. Edward Halley.

The complimentary entertainment given under the auspices of the Young Irishmen's Literary and Benefit Association to Mr. Edward Halley, in the Windsor Hall, on Monday night, was a success. The attendance was not up to the expectations of the organizers, but what it lacked in numbers was made up in enthusiasm. The feature of the evening's programme was the series of scenes in Ireland thrown on canvas and described by Mr. Halley. Previous to the presentation of the views, Mr. W. J. Hinphy, the president of the Association, expressed the appreciation of the organization at the presence of so many of their friends, and introduced Mr. Halley, who referred to the enterprise of the Association in being represented at Dublin while other and older societies had done a good deal of talking, but had failed to send over a representative. Mr. Halley possesses an eminent degree all the talents for a lecturer in this particular occasion. At times his descriptions were marked by an inspiring pathos which aroused his listeners to a high pitch of enthusiasm. Mr. Halley excelled himself in many of his patriotic references as the superb views of historic places in the Old Land were thrown upon the canvas. During the evening an excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was performed in a able manner.

Bishop Curtis, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Wilmington, has asked the Pope to relieve him from his episcopal duties, in order that he may become again a simple parish priest, and the Pope has granted his very remarkable request. This desire of the humble minded Delaware ecclesiastic could only have its parallel in a general who would ask to be reduced to the ranks, on the ground that there he could better serve his country; but neither in secular nor re-

ligious life do we recall actually a case corresponding to that of Bishop Curtis. He must indeed be a man of God, who seeks to lay up treasures in heaven rather than on earth.—New York Sun.

A South American Union.

The New York Herald's correspondent in Rio Janeiro, Brazil, telegraphs that the Brazilian Foreign Minister, Senhor Cerqueira, strongly opposes a proposition now before the Chamber of Deputies to increase the duties upon all productions of the River Plate republics. The Minister believes these republics would retaliate in kind. The Minister's plan is that a great South American union should be formed, comprising Brazil, Chili, Argentina and Uruguay. The main features of the union to be analogous to those of the German Zollverein.

A Revengeful Smoker.

A St. Petersburg paper prints the story of two ladies who complained to a railway conductor because a man was smoking in the car reserved for non smokers. The insolent conductor's only reply was that he, too, lighted a cigar in the car. At the next station the ladies complained to the agent, who censured the conductor. A few hours later, when it was dark, the conductor suddenly stopped the train, told the ladies they had arrived at their station, and helped them out. When the train had left, the ladies discovered that they had been abandoned in a field, with no house in sight.

Philip Sheridan, B.C.L.

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"All right. I thank you for giving yourselves so much trouble, as my wife will need to have her sealskin coat made over, and as I will be wanting some fine furs we will go down to see you."

"Very well, we will be glad to see you. Good bye!"

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from 1-button to 2-button lengths; prices for 4-button \$1.25, \$1.50 and \$1.75 pair; Suede Evening Gloves from \$1.50 pair up; Ladies' Driving Gloves (Leather) from \$1 pair.

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Men's lined gloves, all kinds and styles, prices from 75c up.

Men's Leather gloves from \$2.25 pair.
Men's Wool Gloves, all sizes and prices.

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In Wool or Lined Kid at rock bottom prices.
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Notice is hereby given that a Dividend of Three Per Cent. upon the paid-up Capital Stock of this Institution has been declared for the current half-year, and that the same will be payable at its Head Office, in this city, and its Branches, on and after

TUESDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER NEXT.

The Transfer books will be closed from the 15th to the 30th day of November next, both days inclusive.

By order of the Board.

W. WEIR,
President.

Montreal, 21 October, 1896.

15-5

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PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,

DISTRICT OF MONTREAL, } SUPERIOR COURT.

No. 80.

Dame Ellen King Austin et al., Plaintiffs, vs.

Dame Stephanie Meloy et al., Defendants. On

the seventh day of November, 1896, at eight of the

clock in the forenoon, at the domicile of said

Defendants, No. 60 Sherbrooke street, in the City

of Montreal, will be sold by authority of Justice,

all the goods and chattels of the said Defendant,

cited in this cause, consisting of household fur-

niture, etc. Conditions: Cash.

Montreal, October 27th, 1896.

15-1

H. LAJENESSE, J.S.C.

Hard on the Joints.

Under the heading of Irish News, the Providence Visitor says:—Mr. William Johnston, the representative of Ulster Orangemen in the House of Commons, presided at a meeting of the brethren in Dublin lately, and gave an explanation of the Armenian question, which is quite a relief. He solemnly believed, putting his hand on the book in front of him—"that the Jesuits were working to bring about a European war. They were trying to embroil the United States with England, and England with the other States of the world, and their aim and object was to restore to the old man on the Tiber the States of the Church which were wrested from him."

Railway Across Siberia.

The New York Times says: While not denying the importance, from a political standpoint, of Russian new railway across Siberia, English exporters and shipping men assert that not for many years, if ever, will it become an appreciable factor in international commerce. The road, they say, will make possible the transfer of troops, and, perhaps, of a few favored passengers from St. Petersburg to the Pacific in ten days, but its facilities for moving freight are of the most primitive and inadequate kind. This is true of the oldest and best equipped railways in Russia. It takes a week for goods to reach Moscow from the capital, and the time on the new road will be at least thirty days, which, taken in connection with the much higher freight rate, will make competition with the English steamship lines out of the question.