

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

If the English speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they would soon make of the "True Witness" one of the most prosperous and powerful Catholic papers in this country. I heartily bless those who encourage this excellent work.

† PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

SATURDAY.....FEBRUARY 12, 1898.

CATHOLICS AND THE Y.M.C.A.

We have been informed, on reliable authority, that between two and three hundred Catholic young men belong to the Young Men's Christian Association, and that several Catholic young women are members of the Young Women's Christian Association, both of them Protestant organizations in this city. The question arises: Is it lawful for Catholics to belong to these associations? On this point, it is true, our Archbishop has not made any pronouncement—for the reason, perhaps, that it has not been submitted to him; or probably because it is deemed unnecessary to tell Catholics that they cannot be good and loyal sons and daughters of the Church and at the same time be members of these Protestant associations. We are inclined to take the latter view.

The following is an extract from the constitution of the Y.M.C.A. as to its membership:—

Sec. 1. The members of this association shall consist of three kinds, viz.: Active, associate and sustaining.

Sec. 2. All male members in good standing in Evangelical churches may become active members of this association, upon the payment, in advance, of the annual fee and the acceptance of their applications by the Board of Directors. Only active members shall have the right to vote and hold office.

(A foot note here informs us that Evangelical churches are defined by resolution of the international convention at Portland in 1889 to be churches "maintaining the Holy Scriptures to be the only rule of faith"—i. e., Protestant churches.)

No Catholics, it is to be presumed, become 'active members.' They become 'associate' members only. As to the Y.M.C.A. rules regarding associate members, the following, which is taken from a circular recently issued by the Y.W.C.A. of Montreal, and which is the same as those contained in the rules of all these associations, whether for men or women (with a slight verbal difference when the fee or the sex is mentioned) is instructive:

Who May Become an Associate Member? Any woman of good moral character, without respect to creed, occupation or nationality, may become an associate member upon the payment of fifty cents annually. Associate members are entitled to all the privileges of the association, except the right to vote.

There can be no doubt as to the strength of the temptation which leads Catholic young men and women to join these "Christian Associations." In the first place—and this is the key to the whole question—we have no Catholic institutions of a similar character. Would that we had! In the second place, the principle on which these Protestant associations are founded is an excellent and noble one, looking at it from a purely secular point of view. The secret of the undoubted success of the Y.M.C.A. lies in its practical recognition of the need for providing for the healthy and natural instincts and tastes, both physical and mental, of early and advanced youth. Every facility for indulging in wholesome athletic pastimes is afforded in them, especially in the cities and towns. They have well-stocked libraries and reading rooms; and the intellectual faculties of the members are stimulated by literary and debating societies and by lectures from eminent men. There are classes of many kinds where members may obtain instruction in almost every branch of education, at a nominal cost. Nor are the graces of life neglected, for there are musical societies and classes, art schools and amateur dramatic organizations in them, where proficiency may be acquired on easy terms and under encouraging auspices.

Much as all this is, it is not all. If a member is out of a situation, efforts are made by the Association to procure him a place; and for this purpose an employment register is kept. If he leaves for another part of the country, or goes to a different land, the Association follows

him with kindly interest. He is given letters of introduction, and if there is a branch in the city or town where he takes up his new abode, he is made 'at home' at once by the local secretary, who will recommend him to a hotel or boarding house, and give him any other useful information which he may require; he is introduced to other members, and so finds himself surrounded by helpful friends. In the women's associations there are, amongst other advantages, educational classes of all kinds, including those giving instruction in millinery, art needlework and domestic embroidery, dressmaking, dress-cutting, cookery, and even laundrying.

The great and fatal drawbacks, for Catholics, to all this is that the atmosphere of the Association is essentially Protestant—aggressively Protestant in some cases.

Yes; the temptation for Catholic young men and women to join these associations is very strong. But if they were actuated by the firm and active faith of their fathers and mothers they would lose no time in removing that temptation by establishing similar associations of their own.

THE YOUNG MAN AND THE CHURCH.

A subject which, we have reason to know, often brings sorrow to the hearts of some of our most devoted pastors is the indifference of Catholic young men to the financial needs of their parishes. A large proportion of them give little or nothing towards the maintenance of their churches, their schools, or the charitable institutions in connection with them. Fewer still amongst them rent pews. This is a very serious matter for our young men. As our contemporary, the Monitor, of San Francisco, pertinently says, if the young men will not support religion, it becomes a serious matter for the Church of the future. The old folks with their strong faith and generous hearts are fast passing away. Their sons and daughters must take up the works which are falling from their dead hands, the support of religion among others. If they fail in that, then must we, in no very long time, fall as a Catholic body and our name be blotted out from the map of the universal Church. Surely this can never happen in a city so thickly populated by the sons and daughters of the far off Isle of Saints.

A REMONSTRANCE TO "LA PRESSE."

The illustrations on the front page of La Presse on Saturday last were such as one should expect to find only in the yellowest of yellow journals. They represented, amongst other nauseating features of his trial, the condemned youth, Thomas Nulty, with a pipe in his mouth, and a border around him made of the hangman's noose; Thomas Nulty playing the fiddle, surrounded by the hangman's rope; Thomas Nulty dancing, surrounded by the hangman's rope; and other similarly revolting pictures. It is not too much to say that, when it is borne in mind that La Presse claims a daily circulation of 53,821, the page to which we refer was a disgrace to Canadian journalism. It is with regret that we feel obliged to say this, for we have always admired the enterprise of La Presse and felt proud at the great success which it has achieved through the generous support accorded to it by our French-Canadian fellow-citizens. Success is often gained so rapidly that it becomes dangerous to those who have won it; and if La Presse continues to follow the example of the worst kind of American journalistic sensationalism it will sink in public favor as rapidly as it has risen in it.

ENGLISH SPEAKING CATHOLICS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION.

At the recent meeting of the Catholic Teachers' Association held in this city a number of amendments to the present Education law were suggested, and resolutions urging the adoption of some of them were passed. One of these amendments suggested that the teachers should be represented on the Council of Public Instruction "by several members" of the association. A resolution favoring this change was passed. This was the principal business transacted. We must confess that we have been somewhat disappointed that something more important and of greater urgency was not done. There is, for example, the question of the appointment of an English-speaking Inspector for the schools in the Montreal district, which are entirely or principally attended by English speaking Catholic children. We had expected that this question would have been discussed. But not a word was said about it. That the teachers should be represented on the Council is a good idea, we admit; but we contend that until the question of according English-speaking Catholics the share to representation to which they are justly entitled in the practical supervision of our schools is satisfactorily settled, pedagogic membership of the Council should remain in the region of debate. When the Teachers'

Association shows a disposition to be fair and just in this connection it will receive our cordial support in any other proposal which it may make.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. U. E. Archambault, who named himself as a member of the deputation to proceed to Quebec to interview the Premier and the Provincial Secretary on the subject. Mr. Archambault seems to be wishful of constituting himself the Grand Mogul of the educational interests of Montreal. Not content with drawing his pension, he is Superintendent of the Plateau Academy and is also secretary-treasurer of the Board of Catholic School Commissioners and we do not know what else besides. We have nothing to say personally against Mr. Archambault, who has done good work in his profession in the past; but we do say that the cause of education is not being advanced by one man monopolizing so many offices. The duties attaching to the positions would certainly be more efficiently and more satisfactorily discharged were they entrusted to separate individuals.

A C. M. B. A. CASE.

A lawsuit which possesses interest for not only the members of the C.M.B.A., but for all other Catholic fraternal and benevolent orders and societies has been decided in the city of Oswego, N.Y. It was the case of Michael Fitzgerald against the Supreme Council of the C.M.B.A., and had been for a year before the courts. Briefly stated, the facts were these: Fitzgerald's brother, who was a theological student, became a member of the C.M.B.A. at Oswego in September, 1894, and died from consumption in September, 1895. Michael Fitzgerald, as the beneficiary, claimed the insurance money; but the Supreme Council of the C.M.B.A. declined to give it to him on the ground that his deceased brother had knowingly made false and untrue answers to the questions printed on the form on which he wrote his application for membership, as well as to those on the medical certificate blanks concerning his health and his family history, and that he had likewise suppressed facts and concealed information which the medical examiner and the association were entitled to know in order to determine the applicant's fitness for membership. After a good deal of the trouble usually encountered in such cases it was proved that the applicant had had a brother, of whom he had made no mention, who had died of consumption, and a sister who had died of meningitis, of whom he had also failed to make mention. The court decided in favor of the C.M.B.A.

The decision is one which should be given wide publicity amongst our benevolent associations, for many people desiring to join them seem to think that, because they are Catholic organizations, they will not be very particular in inquiring as to the truth of the statements made on the application forms and on the medical certificate. There is no reason for such people to entertain this view, for fraternal assessment insurance, like other forms of insurance, must be governed by ordinary business principles, if it is to be a success. The man who secures membership in any of these societies either through making false statements or through suppressing facts, commits a fraud upon the society itself as a whole and upon the individual members who constitute it.

WATER COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP.

It is hoped and fully expected by the Irish Catholics of this city that the chairmanship of the Water Committee recently held by Ald. Costigan will be filled by Ald. Kinsella, and that the claims of this worthy representative will be gracefully and cheerfully admitted. Independently of Ald. Kinsella's personal qualifications for this office, the fact that he is an Irish Catholic constitutes an argument in favor of his election which should not be ignored.

Prior to the appointment of Ald. Costigan, that position was always held by an Irish Catholic, though it was the only chairmanship so held in the Council, a fact which is in itself suggestive, and it is now fully expected that due restoration of what the Irish Catholics are justified in regarding as a right will be made, and made graciously and without hesitation.

There is no disposition or desire, on our part, to stir up or encourage racial or religious discord in a community whose best interests are so clearly involved in their prevention, but it may as well be distinctly understood that the Irish Catholics will not submit to be deprived, or to see any of their public men deprived, of positions to which they are entitled, whether in the City Council itself or in any of the departments or offices in its control.

We do not wish to sound any false alarms, but we urge the many societies and organizations which are regarded as the guardians of Irish Catholic interests not to stand by with folded arms, or to remain either apathetic, unsympathetic, or inactive, where energy and determination are required.

ST. ANN'S PARISH.

Closing Exercises of the General Retreat.

Archbishop Bruchesi Present on Sunday—His Grace Receives an Address of Welcome—Reverend Father Strubbe's Eloquent Sermon.

The regular annual four weeks Retreat for the parishioners of St. Ann's Church was brought to a close on Sunday last. The attendance at the exercises was exceptionally large, and the ready manner in which old and young alike braved storm and cold, snow and ice, and all the other trying features of our northern winter, to reach the church and hear the word of God, cannot but have edified the outside world, while it must have been deeply consoling to the good Redemptorist Fathers in charge.

The Retreat was opened on Sunday, the 16th of January, and was conducted throughout by the Rev. Fathers Strubbe and Billeau, whose eloquent exhortations and lucid expositions of Catholic doctrine and the necessity of living strictly up to its teachings felt upon good soil and brought forth good fruit.

THE ORDER OF EXERCISES.

The exercises of the month were distributed thus:—

The first week was dedicated to the married women of the congregation. The second to the married men. The third to the unmarried women. The fourth to the unmarried men.

Thus the Rev. Fathers were enabled to do full justice to all conditions and ages, and to devote to each the particular instructions they severally required. How faithfully and well they labored is told by a story of the confessional, which was visited by over 5,000 people, as follows:—

Married women, 1400; unmarried women, 1300.

Married men, 1140; unmarried men, 1200.

The sight presented by the appearance of such large numbers at the Communion rails was deeply impressive and gratifying, and the good Redemptorists must feel that the blessing of God has fallen on their work and that the seed they have sown will yield a hundred-fold. The exercises were finally closed on Sunday last. Few were privileged to witness such a heart-stirring, soul-lifting scene as was presented when: that vast congregation of stalwart young men with lighted tapers stood up and with full voices and fuller hearts repeated the Act of Consecration to the Blessed Virgin. The grand concluding sermon of the Retreat was

Preached by the Rev. Father Strubbe, and was one of that great preacher's best efforts. The following outline presents but a feeble idea of this eloquent utterance:—

The greatest means of perseverance is a tender devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, first, because Mary is the mirror of perseverance, second, the pledge of perseverance, and third, the crown of perseverance. First, because Mary, although immaculate, made use of every means to protect herself against the world, the flesh and the devil; by her spirit of prayer, by her constant communion with Jesus Christ and by her seclusion from all the dangers of sin. So with young men; you must pray, for whoever prays will be saved and whoever does not pray will be lost. You must be united with Jesus Christ by frequent reception of the Sacraments and must stay aloof from all proximate occasions of sin, for he who loveth danger shall perish in it. Secondly, Mary is the pledge of perseverance on account of her being the

MOST POWERFUL OF QUEENS, and as such possesses the means of helping us. She is the most tender of mothers and is always ready to use her influence and her power in our behalf. Thirdly, she is the crown of perseverance by helping us in our last battle with the enemy of our salvation, protecting us against the last assaults of the devil and filling our hearts and our death beds with the sweetest confidence in God's mercy and goodness. She is the crown of perseverance because she will be at our side before the Judgment Seat of Jesus Christ in order to plead in our behalf by presenting to her Son all our devotions to her, and weighing them in the balance against our sins. She is the crown of perseverance because she will give to her children the glorious privilege of being near her throne and of sharing in a particular manner in her glory.

His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi was present and the occasion was availed of to present him with an address from the young men of the Parish. This was read by Mr. P. T. O'Brien, President of St. Ann's Young Men's Society, whose distinct articulation made every word audible throughout the sacred edifice.

THE ADDRESS.

MONTREAL, February 6th, 1898.

To His Grace PAUL BRUCHESE, Archbishop of Montreal, MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE.—We, the members of St. Ann's Young Men's Society, representing the young men of this parish, take advantage of this occasion to give expression to the feelings of respect, love and admiration which we entertain for you.

Knowing the great affection you bear for the younger members of your flock, whose welfare you have always considered and taken to heart, we approach you with confidence to thank you for your presence here this afternoon, and for the keen interest you have always manifested in our race.

When duty called you to the Eternal City a short time ago, you kindly remembered that a great portion of your

flock were of Irish descent, and your fatherly heart led you to the sacred land of our ancestors, whence our fathers were once driven into exile. You visited the plundered shrines, the ruined monasteries and the stolen churches, and in our stead you moistened the sacred soil with your tears; you knelt down before the tomb, and subsequently before the heart of our great patriot Daniel O'Connell, in order that when you would return home to your children you might impressively speak to them of the great Catholic who gave his soul to God and his heart to Rome, and present him to your Irish children as the example they should imitate. The whole Irish community of your Diocese owes you a debt of everlasting gratitude for that noble thought.

The kind fatherly love which inspires all your actions regarding the care and Christian education of youth has also won the esteem and admiration of all, and you may rest assured that the Irish young men think as your Grace thinks on that vital question, for it has always been characteristic of the Irish to follow their Priests and Bishops. Our welcome to your Grace also springs from another motive—selfish it may be, yet it is human. Our hearts rejoiced in recognizing that one of those whom we could call our own, one born and brought up, we might say, in our midst, was found worthy by the Holy Father to fill the Archiepiscopal chair rendered vacant by the death of Monseigneur Fabre, and we hailed with delight the elevation of a member of the Bruchesi family (so esteemed by the Irish of this locality) to that high ecclesiastical dignity, and we felt, as it were possible, that the bond which united St. Ann's parish with its Bishop was rendered stronger and closer.

Let us hope that God in His divine love and mercy will grant you a long and useful reign over us, and we trust that in your long career, necessarily pregnant with many trials, your Grace will never feel an Irish thorn thrust in your episcopal heart, for we promise you that your Irish young men will always endeavor to be your best, most obedient and affectionate sons.

We now conclude by asking your Grace to bless us, to bless our parents and the resolutions we have taken during this retreat. Also to bless the good and kind Fathers of our church, who have done so much for us and our people since their advent amongst us.

Signed on behalf of the Young Men of St. Ann's Parish.

P. T. O'BRIEN,
President St. Ann's Y. M. S.

His Grace Replies.

His Grace made a feeling reply, in which he referred to his joy on his first pastoral visit to St. Ann's. He said when a boy he had frequently visited this same church in his devotions to good St. Ann, and now an Archbishop he stood there to speak a few words of encouragement to the young men. He referred to his late visit to Rome, and that on the route he had visited Ireland, so dear to them all. He had made a special pilgrimage while there to the tomb of O'Connell, and he held up to the young men their great countryman as a model, not so much for his eloquence—and eloquent he was—but rather for his Christian virtues and reverence for their faith. He spoke of the feeling of honest pride he experienced in beholding the stately edifice erected by their forefathers in Dublin.

At the conclusion of his remarks His Grace gave his benediction to all present.

Solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament followed, during which a choir of 80 voices rendered the following well chosen programme in splendid style, under the direction of Prof. P. J. Shea, the organist, Mr. Wm. Murphy conducting:

Sanctus, (Messa danti), by full choir; Ave Maria, (D. E. Doss); Tantum Ergo, trio and chorus, (Rossini). Messrs W. Murphy, Ed. Quinn and Master McCrory; Laudati, by full choir, (Bellotti); March, organ, (Tanhauseuer).

Professor Shea is to be congratulated on the manner in which the choir, under his practical direction, acquitted itself on this important occasion, and while he is justly proud of them, they have equal reason to be pleased and grateful to him for his untiring exertions to promote the musical portion of the Church services.

The Retreat for 1898 was thus brought to its termination under the most gratifying auspices, and the good Fathers who conducted it will be remembered in the prayers of thousands they have drawn from error to righteousness, and whose souls they have gladdened, and let us hope, redeemed.

LOYOLA COLLEGE.

Removal To Its New and Commodious Establishment.

Formerly Known As Tucker's High School on Drummond Street.

As will be seen by our advertising columns, the Loyola College has been transferred to the Tucker school building on Drummond street. The premises, which have been recently purchased by the College for \$45,000, are large and commodious and well suited for its purpose.

The old premises on St. Catherine street were altogether too small for the number of pupils seeking admission, and in their new quarters there will be ample room. This institution, which is under the able direction of Rev. Father O'Bryan, S. J., assisted by Rev. Father Kavanagh, S. J., and a staff of professors, is especially intended for English-speaking Catholic boys desirous of following a course of classical studies.

A Cutler.—Bobbie.—That fellow to whom I noddled will probably cut me the next time he sees me.

Bobbie.—Why?

Bobbie.—He's my barber, and he is infernally careless.—Philadelphia Record.

ST. MARY'S PARISH.

General Meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Section.

The Recent Successful Concert in Aid of the Organization—An Appreciation of the Generous Assistance Received on the Occasion.

The report read by the popular and energetic secretary, Mr. D. Murney, at the recent general meeting of St. Mary's Irish Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, makes special and honorable mention of those officers and members who had labored so earnestly for the relief of the poor during the past quarter, and who deserve the prayers and thanks of St. Mary's parishioners in particular, and those of their fellow-Catholics generally, for the active interest thus shown in destitute and suffering humanity. The feeling is very general amongst the members of the Conference that it should be more generally and more generously supported by those who cannot but recognize in it the constant watcher and ever willing helper of God's poor.

The following is a list of the Executive officers and honorary members; the former were again appointed for another term:—

Executive Officers.

Rev. P. F. O'Donnell, P. P., Spiritual Director; President, James Morley, J. P.; 1st Vice-President, Thos. Jones; 2nd Vice-President, Francis Friel; Treasurer, James Mullally, J. P.; Secretary, Denis Murney.

Relief Committee.

Chairman, J. J. Ryan, Esq.; Thomas Phelan, Patrick McCall, Michael Dunn, John Phelan, Henry Butler, Hugh Sheehan, Thomas McDonald, Wm. Farnell.

Honorary Members.

Patrick Wright, Thos. Heffernan, J. P., John A. Johnston, John McIlhenny, John McCall, Patrick Henry, John Toohy, James O'Rourke, John Halley, Walter Kavanagh, Michael O'Reilly, George D. Roach, J. J. Ryan.

Thanks to the Performers.

Mr. D. Murney, secretary, on behalf of St. Mary's Irish Conference of St. Vincent de Paul, has requested us to state that at the general meeting of the Conference, on Sunday, 6th inst., a resolution was passed thanking the ladies and gentlemen who had so kindly taken part in the recent concert in aid of the poor, and the musical features so successfully carried out under the direction of Prof. James Wilson:—

Misses Jones, Miss Murphy, Miss Mullally, Miss F. Murphy; Master Willie Polan; Messrs. T. C. Emblem, W. R. Cowan, A. J. Hamill, E. Emblem, T. Beach, W. Fogarty, St. John and Gregory, C. Smith; Master J. McElroy; A. Hamilton, St. Mary's Choir, Messrs. L. Prevost and A. J. Hamill, and Messrs. Willis & Co., who kindly loaned the piano for the occasion.

President Morley, at the close of the concert, invited the different performers and invited guests to partake of refreshments which had been generously supplied by Mr. Beardsall of Craig street.

THE C.P.R. AND CATHOLICS.

Something More About the Carleton Place Shops—A Letter From Mr. Traynor.

Some time ago the TRUE WITNESS published complaints of discrimination against Catholics on the part of the C. P. R. authorities at Carleton Place, Ont. Since then the following letter has appeared in The Central Canadian, published in Carleton Place:—

To the Editor of The Central Canadian.

DEAR SIR,—In your paper of the 20th inst. I read that the TRUE WITNESS of Montreal has received letters from Carleton Place, making statements against Messrs. Elliott and Fulton, imputing to them the charge that Catholics will not be employed in the C. P. R. shops here.

Now, Mr. Editor, without fear of contradiction, I say that such a report is altogether groundless, and but a mere fabrication. As regards Mr. Elliott discriminating against Catholics, I am yet to be convinced, for through his influence I have obtained many favors in the past. In November last, on applying for work in the C. P. R. shops, Mr. Elliott granted my request, thus showing that he is a man devoid of all religious prejudice. Some years ago, being an employee under Mr. Fulton's supervision, I found him always to be a gentleman incapable of the slightest meanness in any way. Hence the complaint lodged against these officials must have no foundation, for there is no semblance of distinction of creed that I can see. As a Catholic it grieves me to know that such a story, through the medium of the press, has been circulated at all.

Hoping you will find space in your paper for this,

I am Yours, etc.,

Jan. 24th, 98. JAMES TRAYNOR.

The last census showed that Carleton Place had a population of four thousand, of which about one eighth are Catholics. There are not the same proportion of Catholics in the C. P. R. shops in that place; and this shows, notwithstanding Mr. Traynor's rather gushing letter, that they are not being treated with fair play by the C. P. R. officials there.

There is no plant which animals so detest as the castor oil plant, it being poisonous to the whole animal world. A goat will starve rather than eat it, and those destroyers of everything green, the locust and army worm, will not feed upon it.