

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, Aug. 24.

THE SESSION.—Unless something very exceptional should take place between the time of your correspondent's writing, and the end of the week there will be nothing of importance to tell regarding the political issues in Parliament here. The debate on the Grand Trunk Railway Bill still drags its lengthiness and monotony along, and the amount of information imparted to the country is indeed very slight. However, Ottawa has been having other events of interest, and we may as well record a few of them.

SERIOUS ACCIDENTS.—Sunday last was a day of serious accidents. One man was killed while fixing an electric line at the top of a pole thirty feet high; and other suffered a like fate while attempting to mend some pipes in a cellar; and two street cars collided, at the corner of Sussex and Rideau streets, shaking up all the passengers and injuring four very severely.

C. R. DEVLIN, M.P., ARRIVES.—A number of Irish representative citizens assembled at the Central Depot on Sunday, where they greeted Mr. C. R. Devlin, M.P., for Galway, and former member in the Canadian House of Commons for the County of Wright. Mr. Devlin reached the city on the Imperial Limited. After an absence of over two years in Ireland Mr. Devlin looks exceedingly well, and seems to have got much stouter, while a few slight streaks of gray tell in his hair the story that he has not grown younger. Some of the delegates accompanied him out to his father's residence at Aylmer, where he intends taking a few weeks of repose. Arrangements have been made for Mr. Devlin to deliver an address on the general aspect of Irish affairs. The date has not yet been fixed. He is also to speak in Boston. It is quite probable that he will remain in Canada until the winter season.

OBLATES RETREAT.—This week the annual retreat of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate is taking place at the Ottawa University. There are several Montreal priests amongst those in attendance. The following is the official list:—

Reverend J. Jodouin, provincial Montreal; J. E. Emery, rector of Ottawa University; E. Guertin, Montreal; M. Royer, Ottawa East; J. LaVoie, Quebec; P. Chaborel, Hull; J. Laumon, Quebec; M. Prevost, Hull; J. B. Grandfils, Quebec; C. Mourier, Lake St. John; D. Forget, Hull; C. Boissonault, Quebec; J. Jacob, Temiskaming; H. Portelance, Juniorate; A. Desilets, Montreal; E. David, Juniorate; P. Deguire, Montreal; A. Guertin, Montreal; J. M. Georget, Montreal; P. Feat, Hull; O. Chevrier, Cape de la Madeleine; J. Guinard, Lake St. John; D. Forget, Hull; C. real; B. Boyer, Bitsmith; C. Le Vacon, Montreal; D. Prudhomme, Montreal; E. Pepsin, Mattawa; A. Faure, Ottawa East; P. Gagne, Mattawa; F. Blanchin, Ottawa East; A. Herwig, Juniorate; P. Bernier, Maniwaki; O. Allard, Maniwaki; E. Tessier, Juniorate; P. Lelievre, Quebec; C. Prior, Juniorate; T. Blanchard, Montreal; J. Decolles, Montreal; J. Marion, Plattsburgh, N.Y.; A. Laporte, Maniwaki; F. Verette, Quebec; J. Fortin, Hull; J. Dube, Montreal; L. N. Dube, Hull; J. Lapointe, Maniwaki; A. Muir, Maniwaki; A. Belanger, Montreal; E. Lavallee, Temiskaming; H. Frappier, Maniwaki; and H. Legault, A. Paillier, M. Froc, N. Nilles, H. J. Lacoste, A. Antoine, H. Gervais, J. Pelletier, G. Gauvreau, W. Murphy, A. Lajeunesse, T. Beaupre, T. Murphy, A. McGowan, C. Najotte, C. Fulham, W. O. Boyle, A. B. Roy, J. B. Boyer, J. Sherry, W. Kirwin, R. Legault, C. M. McGurty, F. Fortier, J. Fallon, E. Turcotte, J. Binet, A. Normandin, P. Hammersley, A. Kunz, W. Stanton, A. Veronneau, J. Landry, N. Ducharme, L. Martineau, G. Pilon, A. Landry, G. Clouthier, L. Rainville, and W. Gervais, from the University.

EDUCATIONAL.—The Christian Brothers will this year have the direction of the St. Jean Baptiste and DeBrebeuf schools.

The classes at the Ottawa University will open on the 2nd September—the day regularly fixed for the event.

The Fathers of the Company of Mary, whose monastery is on the Montreal road, outside of Ottawa, are building an annex to their scholastic which is too small for the accommodation of those present, and which would demand being enlarged on account of the number of members of the Order who have been expelled from France are now taking refuge in Canada.

AN IMMENSE PILGRIMAGE to Rigaud is being organized by Rev. Fathers Labelle, of Aylmer, and Chartrand, of Billings Bridge, to take place on the first Sunday in September.

HIS GRACE the Archbishop returned on Saturday from his pastoral visits, and on Sunday completed the list by attending at St. Ann's Church.

A NEW CHAPEL.—The little village of Tetreauville, immediately outside of Hull, on the way to Aylmer, has long been in need of a chapel. Mr. Tetreau, the Hull notary, after whom the place is called, donated a lot of land, and now a pretty chapel is in process of construction. It will soon be blessed, and it is understood that Rev. Father Provost will be the priest in charge.

BUSINESS MEN.—On Saturday last the delegates of the Board of Trade, now touring the Dominion, arrived in Ottawa. A special train of ten cars brought them to the Capital. Mayor Cook and Hon. R. W. Scott welcomed the city's guests, and at once conducted them to the Parliament Buildings. In the Senate Chamber Hon. Mr. Scott welcomed them most cordially. And when they visited the House of Commons, Mr. C. Marcell, M.P., for Bonaventure, gave them a hearty reception in a speech that made a real hit. At two in the afternoon they had a grand lunch at the Russell House, after which they were taken to visit the manufacturing district at the Chaudiere. On Sunday the excursionists took the train westward, leaving behind them a most pleasant souvenir of their passage through the Capital, and without a doubt, carrying with them just as happy a recollection of their reception.

A Priest's Sudden Death

There was great sorrow in the little village of St. Ours on Sunday last. A few minutes before ten o'clock, Rev. Canon Olivier Desorey, the venerable and venerated parish priest, had been conversing with a couple of parishioners in his office, when he noticed that it was time to go to Church to preach the sermon of the day at the High Mass. Without any warning a sudden weakness seized him, and he sank back into his chair—dead. The news soon spread and a cloud at once settled upon the entire parish. Canon Desorey was one of the oldest and most beloved priests in the diocese, and he had been for long years the faithful guardian of souls in the flourishing parish. He was born at St. Cuthbert in 1827, and was consequently in his seventy-sixth year. Although he had passed the allotted span, he certainly was considered a man of vigor and looked upon as one who might easily have several years more of useful life in his grand sacerdotal career. But Divine Providence had destined otherwise, and he was, like all good and faithful servants, ever ready for the summons come when it might. And here we have one that was certainly prepared. He died almost at the foot of his pulpit, on his way to perform his duty as pastor of souls, about to continue the fulfilment of the mission to preach and teach which he had received when episcopal hands ordained him. He died as the hero on the field of victory, and over him we can confidently say: "May his soul rest in peace."

A UNIQUE CELEBRATION.

On Sunday last the Alliance Nationale celebrated with great pomp, the second anniversary of its foundation. The ceremonies began at ten o'clock, when a procession, headed by a band, marched to the Church of St. Louis de France, where a solemn High Mass was sung. The closing of the day was marked by a grand banquet in St. Bridget's hall.

Our Curbstone Observer

ON LOBBYING--AGAIN

THE readers will probably remember that two weeks ago I contributed to the "True Witness" some of my observations on "lobbying." It would be of little use for me to worry myself about praise, be it direct or implied, for it could do me no good. The satisfaction would be all my own, and what is the use of praise if the world does not hear it and know that you are the individual object of it? Now, I am so unknown that it would not benefit me in the least to boast, or to say "I told you so." Any one might ask, very properly, "but who are you?" And very properly I would not tell. But, if it is of no use to me it might be of some benefit to the "True Witness," if the readers were to know some of the results of that simple column of observations on "lobbying."

SOME RESULTS.—A copy of the paper containing that contribution found its way to one of the regular subscribers in the House of Commons, at Ottawa. That gentleman had evidently felt that the description struck home, for he lost no time in passing the article around to some of the members. Now there are a few members of Parliament who cannot see a good thing, or what they believe to be a good thing, without rushing off to show it to some of the ministers. And generally that which passes openly from members to ministers comes eventually to the knowledge of outsiders, and especially of the ubiquitous press. For two or three days there was no end to the talk about lobbying. The speaker of the Commons even proposed certain measures, or restricting regulations, that would tend to do away with this most undesirable method of influencing the legislators. There was a general look out for what are supposed to be lobbyists. Any stranger coming around, no matter what his business, no matter whether or not he had any business at all, was spotted and eyed as if he were lobbying. In a word each person, from the foremost legislator down to the last messenger, seemed to have read that description, and appeared anxious to show that he was keen enough to detect a lobbyist at first sight. And so the subject became one of general conversation and of considerable importance. The only pity is that the article had not been written a little earlier in the session, when all the committees were in full blast and when there were lobbyists around as thick as flies on a heap of sugar in mid-July. As it is, however, we can form an idea of the effect that a paper like the "True Witness" can produce, even in a sphere where it would naturally be supposed to exercise very slight influence.

A CONSEQUENT ARTICLE.—During the last days of the week then past and the first days of the following one (last week) there was still an under-current of comment upon the poor lobbyist. Finally the subject became more extended and was being discussed outside the House of Commons, and in the various cities, towns and municipalities, in which there were persons who had, at some time, or other, had experiences in this line. Finally, on Wednesday, the 19th August, the Ottawa "Free Press," the Government organ at the Capital, had the following editorial, under the heading "Putting up a 'Lobby':—

"The municipalities of Ontario and Quebec provinces are putting up a real Parliamentary lobby at this session of the Dominion Parliament. This is an unusual departure, but it seems a practical way of meeting the corporations and individuals who keep a constant lobby going during the whole progress of each session. The mayor of one important city told the editor of the 'Free Press' that he was going to advocate in his council the necessity of keeping a resident representative at Ottawa to watch legislation which might affect his city. He must be a man who can intuitively understand the causes and effects of every private bill introduced in Parliament, and who can devise means of frustrating the iniquities which creep into some bills. When only the rostrate view

of the promoter is presented to legislators even the shrewdest and most vigilant member is often misled by the phraseology of a measure."

A NATURAL CONCLUSIONS.

Leaving aside, for the present, the question itself of lobbying, and leaving the legislative halls to the fate with which these various representatives of cities now menace them, it seems to me that it is a very natural conclusion for one to reach, that a small item, in a good paper, when to the point, is calculated to do much good. We have in this very simple example an evidence of the unseen, and mostly unrecognized, influence—be it for evil or for good—that a newspaper possesses. In the case of a Catholic journal there is no calculating the effects that it can produce in the land. People seem to often fall back upon the old and exploded excuse that their paper has no news, is not a daily chronicle of petty events, and can be of no use to them. But they never reflect upon "the constant drop that wears the stone;" they do not think of the thousands and millions of precious seeds that it is constantly sowing in the garden of society. Taken separately these tiny seeds may appear of but small account; but when you add them up, when you consider the vast field over which they are spread, when you look at the crop that, when aggregated by years and years, they produce, it becomes most astonishing what an amount of good has been done; how many minds have been cleared of prejudices, how many hearts have been turned from evil, how many souls have been won to God. And is not this Apostolic work, when it is directed in the proper and beneficial channel? Is not this the great Apostolate of the Press carried into practice and, combining with that other and higher apostolate of a sacerdotal character, doing the work of the Church and the service of God? If one item in such an immense number of articles as appear weekly, monthly, yearly in the paper, can produce a marked impression in one direction, is it not permissible to conclude that there are hundreds and thousands of other items producing each week their special effects in other spheres and unknown to any person interested in keeping account of them. If the Catholic element, even in a country with as small a population as Canada, were to be one month without any Catholic organ, the effects would be such that a general cry would go up all over the land, that they were at the mercy of their opponents and that they had no protection in their different spheres of usefulness. I merely draw attention to these facts and make these few observations in order to impress my co-religionists with the importance of the Catholic press.

Another Sunday Lesson

(By An Occasional Contributor.)

Despite warnings and despite bitter experience, young people will insist on braving the dangers of Sunday outings upon the river. The record still goes on. Last Sunday it was a young man named Alphonse Gouillet, who, in the midst of a joyous mood, singing a gay song, was swept, to his death off a ferry-boat, between Charlemagne and Bout-de-l'Île. It was late, dark, and the waters were merciless at that point. A gay and happy company on the way home after an afternoon of fun; there was an accident, a rail gave way, and the most joyous of the party went down to rise no more. It is a simply story and takes not very long to be told—no longer than it took for the event to take place. But it is one more bead in the immense chaplet of fatal accidents extending from the opening of navigation to this day. When are young people—and even older people—going to learn sense? When are they going to appreciate the fact that they play with death each time that they tempt the waters of the St. Lawrence and defy the fatal eddies along the shores and amongst the islands? It is a poor compensation for the pleasures of a Sunday outing. We hope that sooner or later these severe lessons will be taken to heart and kept in memory.

The woman who never admires others is rarely admired herself.

The meanest woman has some good spot in her heart; try and find it.

MIRACLE SHRINES.

(By a Regular Contributor.)

As an evidence of the narrow and uncultivated minds that frequently pass current in the world as bright and clever, and as an example of the bigotry and prejudice—born of ignorance of Catholic teachings—that are to be met with in life, we will recall an incident now twenty-three years old, but the memory of which can never be effaced. Travelling from Montreal to Ottawa, in 1880, along the North Shore, the writer overheard a few remarks, passed in the course of a conversation, by a well known contractor of Ottawa. He and his companion were talking about Quebec and its surroundings, and when asked what there was below Quebec, the contractor said: "They have some pretty good villages, but no push in them; the only place likely to ever come to anything is Ste. Anne's, about twenty miles down the river. They got up a miracle factory there and it looks as if they were going to make it boom." I do not know whether he expected his companion to laugh at this attempt at humor, or not, but the other took the matter so seriously that he did not even smile. He probably was so horrified at this new industry, the details of which he knew nothing about, that he could not say anything. This remained fixed forever in the writer's mind, and whenever he meets that wealthy and prosperous contractor, or reads of his success in business, the picture of his blank mind on all matters affecting Catholicity arises and destroys the effect that his achievements would likely produce.

This was recalled to our mind on reading, the other day, a sermon preached by Rev. J. J. Keenan, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Fond du Lac, in which the priest referred to a place in Washington County, Michigan, called Holy Hill. It appears that in that section of the country there has been an idea abroad that miracles were performed at the place called Holy Hill, and that the chapel there was a shrine of pilgrimage. Father Keenan had felt that this work had been carried on too long and was assuming proportions that might entail trouble in the future, so he declared that the Church had never approved of Holy Hill as a shrine. Some years ago the papers spoke of a supposed miracle, or marvellous cure said to have been effected for a lady of Fond du Lac, but she candidly admitted afterwards that she had not received any benefit from her pilgrimage to the Holy Hill shrine. In view of the fact that the Church is extremely careful in all such matters, and that she must have irrefutable proof, and often reiterated evidence before she will even tolerate any pretense at pilgrimage to shrines, or any attempt to fabricate miracle stories that might deceive the people, we will reproduce the summary made by a contemporary of Father Keenan's sermon. He spoke thus:—

"An ancient proverb says, 'When God builds a church, the devil puts a chapel there.' So we find sacred places and sacred names copied and imitated for temporal advantage. As an example, the speaker cited the Kirmess. This originally was a sacred celebration or feast in honor of the patron saint of a church. We all know to what it has degenerated. Another instance is the so-called 'Holy Hill.' Father Keenan said that he was a pastor near the place so called before the misnomer was applied. The only reason he can find for that name is that some man, guilty of manslaughter, lived and died the life of a hermit on the top of the hill. It is claimed, also, that Father Marquette went to the top of the hill to locate the source of a river. However, it was shortly after the hermit's death that some priest from Milwaukee, following the European idea in many countries, thought it would be fine to have a church built there, not intending it as a shrine or place of miraculous events. Next, some of the clergy, for some obscure reason, advocated holding services there upon certain days of the year. Since, it has been claimed that miraculous events have taken place there, but thus far no case has stood the test of investigation."

"The church has never approved that place as a shrine, and Catholics who go there simply go for an outing or for recreation, as long as it has no approval of the authorities of the Church."

"The continual booming of 'Holy

Hill,' he added, indicates that some one is reaping a pecuniary benefit therefrom, otherwise it would have long since been forgotten. The only ones that can benefit from the agitation of the subject are the local clergy of the neighborhood and the railroad companies. The local clergy Father Keenan considers too conscientious to participate in any fraud, and he said that as soon as the people discover that it is simply a business matter of a corporation, they will wait till the church gives its approval."

"Miraculous shrines, he concluded, cannot be manufactured or produced by any mythical history, and much less by booming and advertising."

Were the contractor, referred to at the beginning, aware of the difficulty there is to get the Church to admit the genuineness of miracles, and to lend her sanction to shrines of devotion, he would not have made such a display of his great lack of knowledge on the subject.

Educational Notes.

In the course of an address to the Mount St. Agnes' Alumnae Association, Mt. Washington, Md., Rev. F. X. Brady, S.J., said:—

The purpose of your association, I take it, is not merely to gather here annually to renew old friendships and form new ones, to luxuriate in memories of days when the fancy was free and the heart unfettered by responsibility and to indulge in social amenities, but to learn by conference how you may best widen the sphere of her influence, promote her interests, and bring added glory to your Alma Mater. The association is to strengthen the bond of common discipleship and common interests and sympathy, and foster the spirit and principles of Mount Saint Agnes in yourselves so strongly, so thoroughly, that you will wish the coming generation to imitate them too.

Because you are members of the Association, it is your privilege and duty to co-operate in aim, method and spirit with the faculty. This each can do.

You can co-operate by helping to make Mount Saint Agnes known. Ignoti nulla cupido. No one cares for what he knows nothing about. Let the outside world know that Mount Saint Agnes exists. The knowledge of its existence will pique the curiosity, and prompt the query: "Where and what is it?" If your modesty prevent you from pointing to yourself and saying, "Look at me, I am a product of Mount Saint Agnes," at least you can interest the inquirer to the extent of wishing to try it for his or her daughter.

The spirit of the day is that, if you want a thing, you must go after it; and reputable colleges and academies, and even universities, send out solicitors during the vacation to induce candidates to matriculate in these institutions, allowing these to take their preliminary examinations at their homes. I may not consider this method dignified, but it certainly is legitimate, just as legitimate as advertising in the public prints. Obviously, the faculty here will not adopt this method for its own members, but the Alumnae Association renders this means unnecessary, for each member can become a herald of the institution. The army and navy have recruiting offices in every city of importance. Why cannot every home of an alumnae be a recruiting center?

Among the many endowments of womanhood is the gift of eloquence. Eloquence is natural to woman, but when you add to this natural gift culture of mind and grace of diction, the charm is irresistible. There is only one power that makes her more irresistible, and that is her persuasiveness when it comes from conviction. And is it not the conviction of every one of you that true education must be Christian?

GARIBALDI'S DEATH.

News comes from Rome that Manotti Garibaldi, eldest son of the more notorious Garibaldi—the leader of the Italian revolutionists in 1870—died on Sunday last. It is claimed by the admirers of his father that the son inherited the qualities that made the elder Garibaldi notorious. He was, as far as the physical conditions of men go, the exact picture of his parent. He had also inherited the headlong and blind heroism that belonged to his race.

Househ

CLEANLINESS.—One would save themselves from, and serious illness instances, if they had a hint contained in graphs:—

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BARLEY WATER.—Put