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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1898.

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.

DUTY OF CITIZENS IN REGARD TO MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

In the issue of a couple of weeks ago a specimen from one of our correspondents was given, relative to the feeling now existing as to the management of public affairs by our present city fathers. Since that time, to judge by what reaches the office day by day, in the shape of uncomplimentary comment, public sentiment is very much aroused against the council of the city, and the attempt being made to tax religious institutions seems to have caused the wrath of correspondents to overflow.

It is all very well to denounce, but is it not better to look the question fairly in the face, and find out the cause, if possible, of the present condition of affairs, and then to seek if there be no remedy to that condition which, indeed, is little short of desperate? Loan upon loan has been effected of late years, appropriation after appropriation has been exceeded, illegal expenditures have been made upon all sides, the cry of no money for this, that or the other necessity has been heard until it has become unbearable. The resources of the city appear to be exhausted, and fresh borrowing powers, we are told, are absolutely necessary to enable these in control of our civic affairs to carry on the city government.

The question presents itself: who is responsible for this deplorable state of affairs, and are our city fathers wholly to blame? To any impartial observer it will be plain that the members of the city council are not the only sinners in the matter under review. The system of our civic government is at the root of the trouble, and until some means shall have been adopted to put things on a different basis, no real or permanent change for the better can be hoped for. It is unnecessary to go back to the days when all power was in the hands of a few, who legislated for their own interests, and could, therefore, give their time and labor apparently without remuneration. But it is well to observe that with the extension of the franchise and the larger representation secured by those who were originally considered the less favored classes, the idea has prevailed that men could be found, who being without large means and obliged to work for a living, to speak plainly, would be willing and ready and anxious, for the pure honor of the thing, to devote the time and labor necessary for support of themselves and their families, free, gratis and for nothing, to a thankless public.

Strange as it may appear this notion has existed for years and years, and still exists to the present day here and now. In every other walk of life, except in the administration of our public affairs, under the municipal system, the laborer is considered to be worthy of his hire. The storekeeper is not expected to give away his goods; the artisan must be paid for his time and material; people expect to pay the lawyer, the doctor, the architect or the accountant for his services. If a bank requires a manager or a cashier, should a corporation of any kind need a man of affairs, those institutions seek for the best talent, they look out

for the best trained ability, and invariably find it they pay the highest price for what suits them best.
The government of a city, and more especially a city of between three and four hundred thousand souls, is surely a matter of some moment, requires talent of no mean order, and an aptitude for affairs that would command a large salary in any other department. Yet, with a blindness that is simply incomprehensible, up to this moment, the people have been expecting to see such trained ability sacrificing itself on the altar of the city, not merely for nothing in the way of remuneration, but with the additional burden of having to pay roundly in election expenses for the honor of thus conferring their services upon the public.

It will be said that there are many men in our midst who have the time and the means to devote to public affairs, and that they should do it. Such men, in small number, there undoubtedly are, but we must take men and things as we find them, and unfortunately it is well known that such men not only decline to serve the public but take very little interest in the manner that public affairs are managed by anybody else. Such men turn disdainfully from the office of alderman and spurn to be connected with municipal matters in any way. To such an extent does this wretched spirit prevail, that it is with the greatest difficulty that wealthy citizens can be induced to even cast their votes on election day. It is patent, then, that the remedy must be sought for in some other quarter than from the wealthy. What, then, should be done? Time and again it has been suggested to put the civic affairs into the hands of paid commissioners. Such a remedy would be efficacious at all events for a time but it is too drastic to meet with popular favor. A civic cabinet is now under consideration to be composed of men selected from the board of aldermen. In so far as it has been possible to follow the discussion, the remedy suggested can hardly meet the exigencies of the city at present. Under our present system the board of aldermen is altogether too large, it has assumed the proportions of a good sized parliament.

The first thing to be done is to reduce the number of representatives by one-half, and then to the office of alderman should be attached a salary that will enable the occupant to live and support his family whilst devoting his time to the public affairs, and place him beyond the necessity or temptation of hoodling, or either directly or indirectly using his position for illegitimate gain. To ensure honesty in the administration of the city's affairs first class men are a "sine qua non," and to secure such the co-operation of the pulpit, with the laymen of good will is an imperative necessity. Here we are threatened with the taxation of institutions of charity that have been relieving the city, for years and years, of burdens that it should have shouldered, and all because our means have been squandered by a lot of incompetent representatives, to speak mildly.

Good men are needed, men of brains and training, and these can be had if the pulpits of our city, will ring out the call to them, to devote their energies to the public good, to arouse themselves from the lethargy into which they have fallen. Honest and capable men, knowing that they need not beggar themselves, since their services will be paid for, will come forward as popular representatives.

Our city is not poverty-stricken, on the contrary, it is the wealthiest city in the Dominion, one of the most prosperous and progressive on this continent. With competent men to guide our affairs, the present taxation is more than sufficient to meet all demands. Give us a board of aldermen of the right stamp, half or one-third as numerous as the present body, but with salaries commensurate with the duties they will be required to perform, and the city's bonds will go up by leaps and bounds, the cross condition the city is now in will be a thing of the past, and we shall have heard the last sound, of the inhuman cry, for taxing the institutions, that have grown up upon public charity, for the protection of God's helpless creatures.

THE RETREAT AT ST. PATRICK'S.

Before our next issue reaches our city subscribers, especially those of them who are young women, it may be as well to call attention again to the fact that their spiritual retreat will open on Sunday, December 4, and continue during the ensuing week, and

for the best trained ability, and invariably find it they pay the highest price for what suits them best.
The government of a city, and more especially a city of between three and four hundred thousand souls, is surely a matter of some moment, requires talent of no mean order, and an aptitude for affairs that would command a large salary in any other department. Yet, with a blindness that is simply incomprehensible, up to this moment, the people have been expecting to see such trained ability sacrificing itself on the altar of the city, not merely for nothing in the way of remuneration, but with the additional burden of having to pay roundly in election expenses for the honor of thus conferring their services upon the public.

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY.

On Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday of this week the Sisters of Mercy celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the foundation of their community in this city; and the occasion was also availed of to inaugurate and bless their new Foundling Asylum. The Order was founded in 1843, by that great prelate to whom Montreal is indebted for so many noble institutions of beneficence, Bishop Bourget; but the institution which the Order was established to administer was founded by Madame Jetté, a widow, on St. George street, many years before. Her maiden name was Marie Rosalie, and she was the daughter of a poor farmer at Lavaltrie. Her heart was moved to compassion by reflecting on the condition of girls and women who had strayed from the path of virtue; and she resolved to devote her life to the work of rescuing and reforming them. Having received the approbation and encouragement of Bishop Bourget, she set herself to work energetically, with the result that she was soon obliged to move into a large house, at the corner of St. Catherine and St. Andre streets. Seven other pious women joined her in her good work, and Mgr. Bourget received their vows in 1848, Madame Jetté taking the name of Sister Marie de la Nativite. She modestly declined the position of Superioress, and Sister Ste. Jeanne de Chantal was elected to the office.

The numbers of penitents who entered the Institute des Soeurs de la Misericorde rapidly increased. In 1849, there were 87 penitents in it. Three years later these hapless mothers numbered 97. In 1853, the foundation of the present spacious institute was laid. It fronts on Dorchester street, and extends to St. Hubert street, St. Andre, and Laguchetiere streets. The Order has branches in Ottawa, in New York and in Manitoba. Up till 1880, the newly born infants were, after having been baptized, sent to the crèche in the Convent of Grey Nuns, they became so numerous, however, that it was decided by the Sisters of Mercy to build a crèche of their own. This large wing of their vast building has been completed; and it was formally opened and blessed by Archbishop Bruchesi and Archbishop Duhamel of Ottawa on Monday.

On Sunday the golden Jubilee of the foundation of the community was commemorated by a solemn High Mass, at which Archbishop Duhamel pontificated, by a sermon by Archbishop Bruchesi in French, and a sermon by the Rev. J. E. Donnelly, pastor of St. Anthony's, in English. It was at the evening service that Father Donnelly delivered his able and interesting sermon during the course of which he referred to the magnificent work of the Order during the half century of its existence in Montreal.

Amongst the large congregation which filled every available space in the beautiful chapel, were Sir Wilfrid and Lady Hingston, Mr. Justice Curran and Mrs. Curran, Mr. Michael Burke and Mrs. Burke and a number of other prominent Irish Catholics.

During Archbishop Bruchesi's eloquent sermon His Grace cited some interesting statistics showing the good and charitable work which is being performed by the Institute in Montreal. He said:—
"Let me give you a few figures regarding what has been done in this institution in the last six years. 1682 young girls or women have been received and kept and cared for gratuitously. 285 paid for a small portion of what their board and lodging cost. Only 228 paid for their board and lodging in full. 2,044 infants were taken in and most of them kept for nothing. 18,056 medical prescriptions were made up gratuitously. The community has spent \$38,371 upon its work—an amount of money which has been expended

in this city, what amount received from the Provincial Government, \$4,808.25. From the City, nothing. I hope that the sinister rumors as to placing a heavy burden of taxation upon this and other institutions which perform similar work, which have of late alarmed the communities in charge of them, are not well founded. These devoted self-sacrificing religious are not strangers to you. They are your daughters, your sisters, or your friends. Will this taxation scheme be adopted? No. The French and Catholic blood that runs in our veins tells us it will not. If, however, we are mistaken, and a burden and an affliction are placed upon religious and charitable institutions established by so much labor and anxiety, and self-sacrificing devotion, the good works will still be carried on."

THE SHIP FEVER MONUMENT.

We find the following somewhat sympathetic editorial observations in the "Daily Witness":—
Another landmark seems to be doomed. The iron horse is to prance over the graves of those who perished of ship fever in 1848. The romantic monument erected there by the men who built Victoria Bridge, a memorial which has drawn the attention of many a traveller, is to be removed to some more appropriate place—some place more appropriate forsooth than upon the resting-place of those whose fate it commemorates. Where else would that great boulder be anything but a monument to the fact that these immigrants were now trampled on. We suppose it is not intended to dig up the dead. There have been many men who have places on the page of Canadian history whose grave-stones lie kicking about or have long since been built into walls or broken into road metal. What marvel, then, if the resting-place of a few thousand strangers is not sacred in our eyes?"

For many years the "True Witness" has been urging that some steps should be taken to secure the plot of ground where these victims of the terrible "ship fever" of 1847 lie buried and the Rev. Fathers of the Redemptorists in charge of St. Ann's Church have, since their advent to that parish, helped to attract attention to this particular spot by holding a special Requiem service for the repose of the souls of the thousands of Irish Catholics whose bones are there interred. It will be remembered that last year the fiftieth anniversary of their death was commemorated, and that the "True Witness" published an extensive report of the ceremonies and of the speeches delivered by the priests of the English-speaking parishes and the leading Irish Catholic public men on the occasion. At that time, judging by the immense gathering that assembled around the monument erected by strangers to the memory of the victims of misrule and famine and fever whose resting-place it marks, we felt confident that, before another year elapsed, another and more fitting monument would be built on a spot hallowed by the remains of Irish Catholics some of whom, perhaps, are near and dear to many an Irishman and Irishwoman in Montreal.

Through causes to which we have no desire to make any reference here, nothing has been done in the matter; and the consequence is that, as was pointed out by a correspondent whose letter we published last week, we are confronted with the probability—we may almost say the certainty—that over this sacred piece of ground there will be placed iron rails and railway equipment by the Grand Trunk Railway authorities. We have been informed that the members of St. Patrick's League are considering what steps, if any, can be taken to prevent the removal of this sacred old landmark, in the preservation of which every Irishman and Irishwoman, and also every Catholic, in Montreal, ought to feel personally concerned—a removal which would be both a desecration and a calamity.

In this issue we reproduce an extract from the deed of sale which gave the title of the property to the Protestant Bishop of Montreal for the sum of five dollars. As our correspondent hinted it is rather strange that the Protestant Bishop of Montreal did not confer with the pastors of the English-speaking Catholic parishes of the city, when he had received the letter from the Grand Trunk Railway management asking for the right to extend their tracks over a grave-yard in which are buried the bodies of six thousand people, of whom 95 per cent. were Catholics.

ST. MARY'S BAZAAR
To Open December 5th.

The English-speaking Catholics of the East-End of this city are just now engaged in the praiseworthy task of assisting the esteemed pastor of St. Mary's Church, Rev. P. F. O'Donnell, and his energetic and able assistant, Rev. M. L. Shea, to secure funds in order to carry on the work of decorating the Church to a successful conclusion.

The parishioners of St. Mary's are very anxious to beautify their sacred edifice and the appeals they have addressed to all classes of citizens of Montreal have met with a very generous response in the way of donations, as may be seen by a glance at the list given below. Rev. Father Shea has been the principal worker in bringing in the array of articles which will decorate the various tables and the booths at the bazaar, which will open on December 5, in the basement of the Church. In this work, Father Shea is enthusiastically supported by the ladies of the various committees.

During the course of the bazaar there will be a series of entertainments and on the opening night the C. O. F. will hold a banquet at which all the leading public men will assist. Father O'Donnell and his popular assistant should be encouraged in their laudable undertaking, not alone by the English-speaking Catholics of the eastern section of the city, but also by the contributions of the other four English-speaking parishes of Montreal. The following is a list of donations received up to the present:—

1. Piano, Willis & Co., Notre Dame Street.
2. Parlor set, Wilder & Co.
3. Bedroom set, Mr. L. Lapointe.
4. Handsome couch, Mrs. J. Horahan.
5. Beautiful carpet, Mr. T. Ligget.
6. Wall paper for two rooms, Mr. A. Showers.
7. Ton of coal, Mrs. P. McCrory.
8. Barrel of flour, Mr. M. Hickey.
9. Horse, Mr. Jos. Lefebvre.
10. Harness, Thos. Phelan.
11. Sleigh, Mr. J. J. Ryan.
12. Cow, Mr. J. Condon.
13. Calf, Mr. P. Scullion.
14. Bale of hay, Miss Kavanagh.
15. Sewing machine, Singer Sewing Machine Co., through Mr. C. Forest.
16. Knives, Mr. L. J. A. Surveyer.
17. Spoons, Mr. B. J. Coughlin.
18. Set of dishes, Mr. Lavilette of Cassidy & Co.
19. Dinner set, Mrs. Schultze.
20. Case of Sauterne, Mr. Farrell.
21. Gold headed cane, Mr. A. Bannerman.
22. Silk vest, Mr. Martin Phelan.
23. Hall stand, Mr. T. Ryan.
24. Picture with easel, Sadlier & Co.
25. Picture and dressed dolls, Mrs. Kennedy and Miss Moore.
26. Picture of Father Shea, Ariess & Co.
27. Valuable book, Mrs. Fitzgerald.
28. Fur mat, Desjardins & Co.
29. Hand painted picture and frame, Miss Coleman.
30. Silk hat, Lorge & Co.
31. Costly pictures, Mrs. Dowling.
32. Donations, Mr. & Mrs. D. McDonald.
33. Small but pretty stove, Mr. McVey.
34. Silver Decanter, Mr. Mongeau.
35. Silver fruit dish, Mr. Feeley.
36. Fruit in season, Messrs. O. & E. Hart.
37. Donation, Mr. J. Morley.
38. Set of glass ware, Mrs. Darragh.
39. Pair of slippers, Mr. Reay.
40. Pair of slippers, Mr. Gauthier.
41. Handsome cake, Mr. McGarry.
42. A suitable gift, Rev. Fr. McGarry.
43. Tidies for parlor set, Miss Crowe.
44. Box of Toys, Master John Toohy.
45. Donation, Miss Reilly.
46. Box of rubbers, C. R. Co.
47. Elegant Japanese tea box, Mr. E. O'Brien.
48. Parlor carpet, Mr. T. Ligget.
49. Box of Strachan's Gilt Edge Soap, Wm. Strachan.
50. Statue of St. Anthony, C. B. Lancot.
51. Pair of ladies' shoes, Mr. Wayland.
52. Suit of clothes, G. H. Pearson & Co.
53. Music stand, Miss Linahan.
54. Handsome table, Mr. Geo. Labbé.
55. Precious gift, Messrs. Frothingham & Workman.
56. Set of irons, W. Ryan.
57. Glass ware, Mr. Leduc.
58. Beautiful '98 cushion, Mrs. J. O'Gorman.
59. Picture and clock, Mrs. W. Phelan.
60. Fine cushion, Miss Suprenant.
61. Rubber boots with uppers, Mr. James McKeown.
62. Small house in glass case, Miss Tucker.
63. Elegant parlor lamp, Miss Hunt.
64. Cigars, 1 box, Mr. Vidricaire.
65. Cigars, 1 box, Mr. Forest.
66. A fine clock, Miss Whitaker.
67. A beautiful album, Hodgson, Sumner & Co.
68. Carpet sweeper, Mr. E. Cavanagh.
69. Valuable Book, Mr. T. Gaynor.
70. Beautiful picture, Mrs. T. Ryan.
71. Parlor mat, Mr. H. Hickey.
72. Box of fine soap, Mrs. Finnerty.
73. Generous donation, Mr. T. F. Moore.
74. Donation, Mrs. Monk.
75. Picture and fruit dish, Mrs. Harvey.
76. Liberal donation, Mr. E. R. Gunning.
77. A splendid picture, Miss Mullaly.

78. Lace trimming, Miss McEntee.
80. Silver Card tray, Miss Chamberlain.
81. Pair of vases, Miss Hamilton.
82. Gold watch, Rev. Fr. O'Donnell.
83. A generous gift, Mr. W. O'Brien.
84. Ladies' rubbers, Mr. Gravel.
85. A pioneer box, Mr. Wm. Brennan.

The ladies of the different booths are requested to give in their lists of articles as soon as possible.

CONVERSAZIONE AT LOYOLA COLLEGE.

It was decided at a meeting called on Saturday 18th inst, presided over by Lady Hingston, with Miss F. MacDonnell as secretary, that a Conversazione will be held at the Loyola College, on Thursday evening, Dec. 1st, 8 to 10 o'clock, in aid of the new chapel. This entertainment has been organized by friends of Loyola and it is gratifying to note that it is a purely voluntary offering on their part and a token, which must be extremely pleasing to the Rev. Rector and his assistants, of the general appreciation of the new institute.

The ticket, 50 cts., will enable all to contribute to the completion and adornment of the chapel, a work always dear to Catholic hearts, and will entitle the holder to be present at a delightful, social reunion, with music furnished by leading musicians and by the boys of the College. Flowers, candy and refreshments, including pastries, tea, coffee, ice cream and cake, will be sold for the benefit of the work. It will be, of course, quite optional with those who attend, to partake or not to partake of these good things. So that the ticket will be the only absolutely necessary expense in attending the entertainment.

The following ladies are amongst those who have actively engaged in its organization, most of whom were present at the meeting; many more equally prominent and equally devoted have expressed a wish to assist in this work of zeal:—

- Lady Hingston, Mrs. Edward Murphy, Mrs. C. F. Smith, Mrs. F. D. Monk, Mrs. Godfrey Weir, Madame A. R. Angers, Mrs. Michael Burke, Mrs. F. B. McNamee, Mrs. Casack, Mrs. Thomas McCarthy, Mrs. Wurtelle, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Sadlier, Mrs. Tansey, Mrs. T. P. Owens, Mrs. J. G. McCarthy, Mrs. de B. Macdonald, Mrs. Kavanagh, Mrs. W. McNally, Madame Hector Provost, Madame Chevalier, Madame Simard, Mrs. Allan MacDonnell, Mrs. J. J. Milloy, Mrs. McGovern, Mrs. Skelly, Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. Morley, Mrs. M. H. Hicks, Mrs. Starnes, Mrs. Bacon, Mrs. Meagher, Mrs. Coyle, Madame Louis Masson, Madame R. Masson, Madame C. Le Blanc, Madame Broseau, Mrs. Whitney, Mrs. Edouard Amos, Mrs. E. C. Monk, Mrs. Schultz, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. McKenna, Mrs. C. Casey, Mrs. Daly, Mrs. Gibson, and the Misses Drummond, Guerin, Trilhey, de B. Macdonald, Gethin, Murphy, Victoria Macdonald, Sheridan, Brown, Sadlier, Flynn, Bartley, Lamontagne, Irvine, Drum, Sharpe, Monk, Harkins, Cummings, Feron, Kavanagh, Estelle O'Brien, A. O'Brien, Doyle, Valois, Forget, Roy, Dunsereau, G. Roy, Leblanc, McCallum.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Bernard McCann.

It is with deep regret that we chronicle the demise of Mrs. Bernard McCann, which sad event occurred at her residence, 125 Mansfield street, on the night of the 17th inst, after a prolonged illness.

There is a feeling of deepest sympathy for the bereaved family in the dire affliction with which Divine Providence, in His infinite wisdom, has deigned to visit them, and their loss is shared by the numerous friends of the deceased who recognized in her a valuable member of society, an exemplary and zealous Catholic, and one who in all relations of life was a model mother and devoted wife.

The funeral which was held on Monday morning, was largely attended by a large concourse of citizens of all classes, thus testifying to the high esteem in which she was held. A solemn Mass of Requiem was chanted at St. Patrick's Church, where deceased worshipped so long and devoutly, after which the remains were transferred to Cote des Neiges Cemetery for interment.

The "True Witness" tenders to Mr. McCann and family its respectful and sincere condolence in the loss they have sustained.

The large circle of friends of Sir Frank Smith will sympathize with him in the death of his eldest son, Mr. H. Harvey Smith, which sad event occurred at Colorado, a few days ago. Deceased had only reached his thirty-fifth year and had many friends in the Queen City.

ST. PATRICK'S T. A. B. SOCIETY.

The annual religious temperance celebration of the St. Patrick's Total Abstinence and Benefit Society will be held in St. Patrick's Church, Sunday evening, Nov. 27th. A special sermon will be preached on the occasion and the St. Ann's and St. Gabriel's T. A. B. Societies will also be present.

Heaven leaves a touch of the angel in all little children; to reward those about them for their inevitable cares.