

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.....MARCH 24, 1900.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

We have been accustomed to read patriotic St. Patrick's Day editorials in Irish, and especially in Irish Catholic papers; but we never looked for enthusiastic expressions of Irish patriotism in the columns of the English, Scotch and French press. This year the spirit of admiration for the Irish race is such that we have not found one exception, in all our exchanges, to the rule of praise that has been followed.

"Le Soleil," of Quebec, has appeared in a double edition, half French, half English, profusely illustrated, and containing some of the choicest pieces of prose and poetry from Irish literature. Every one of the French papers gave expression to sincere sentiments of sympathy towards the Irish people.

One of the best illustrations of how the English and Protestant press of the country vied with all other papers in honoring Ireland's patron saint is the editorial which appeared in the Ottawa "Free Press" on Monday last. We give it in full, as a fair sample of how an honest study of St. Patrick and his works may bring about a feeling of good will that has not, for over a century existed.

"Throughout the inhabited world in Christendom and Gentleness, there are throbbing hearts to-day and thoughts sad and hopeful. For there is no foot of soil in the known world where the sons of Erin are not to be found. To-day is the festival of St. Patrick, the dearest in the year to the Irishman. But it should not be forgotten that other nations can with propriety and gratitude claim a part in doing honor to his memory. There are others who owe much to the labors of St. Patrick, and they may and ought with good grace wear the shamrock in grateful commemoration of the anniversary. A noted British writer has ruminated his readers that the results of St. Patrick's labors "were felt for centuries and extended from beyond the island he redeemed from paganism. In the period which followed his death the Irish Church was the most zealous and active in all Christendom. Although others and they too were worthy of praise have received the greater share of credit for converting pagan England, most of the real work was done by Irish missionaries animated by the very spirit of St. Patrick. There were the men who, braving danger and hardship, the obstacles of an alien tongue and racial prejudice, penetrated to every hamlet in Northumberland, and the marsh lands and preached the gospel to the stubborn villagers until their Christianity became a fact, not a mere profession." And the continent benefited in like manner. The memory of the patron saint of Ireland is one that deserves the veneration of the universe, for as the pioneers of civilization and religion, he and his followers sowed the seeds, the fruits of which the world enjoys to-day. The present is the last St. Patrick's Day which will occur in the present century. It witnesses a sudden demonstration which tends to racial unity and peace. But a century has passed since the most terrible strife prevailed between Britain and Ireland. The years that have intervened have witnessed much injustice

remedied and nobler sentiments prevailed. The exceptional circumstances surrounding the present celebration will, let us hope, justify the belief that the new century will witness a new order of things which will gradually cause the past to be, if not forgotten, at least forgiven."

"NOW'S THE DAY"

In the Ottawa "Citizen" of last Monday, we find an editorial comment, which we will make use of as a text—it reads:—

"We congratulate Mr. Justice Curran on his eloquent and patriotic address at the Irish military concert in St. James Methodist Church Hall, Montreal, on St. Patrick's eve. His strictures on the absence, on Parliament Hill, of a public statue to the 'apostle of union,' Thomas D'Arcy McGee, were well timed, and we trust will bear fruit. That this matter has been so long neglected by the Government of the Dominion—a Dominion whose institutions McGee did so much to create—is little short of a crime.

Oh! for the touch of a vanished hand,
And the sound of a voice which is still."

Although His Honor Judge Curran has spent the last few years of his useful life in a sphere from which sentiment is greatly excluded, the dignity and formality of the Bench have no way quenched the ardor of his patriotism, nor dulled in the least his splendid gift of popular eloquence. The speech referred to above has been acknowledged all over Canada as one of the most brilliant he has ever delivered; and the fact of having pronounced it, on special invitation, at the patriotic military concert, given in the great Methodist Church of Montreal, is an evidence sufficient, if none other existed, of the harmony and good feeling existing here to-day between the various elements of our cosmopolitan society. The fire of his earlier years, unimpaired by time, but strengthened and controlled by practical experience of life in many of its phases, flashes, through every line of the lengthy report that appeared in the secular press.

The special point alluded to by the Ottawa "Citizen" has long been a favorite theme of Judge Curran—long before he ever dreamed of ascending from the public arena to the calmer atmosphere of a judgeship; and it is at once worthy the great orator, poet, statesman and patriot, whose memory is the object of his admiration, and the great orator, statesman and judicial light that he has proven himself to be.

There is no name in the annals of Canadian history more deserving of fitting honor and perpetuation than that of Thomas D'Arcy McGee. He has done as much as any of our greatest statesmen, and much more than any of our "litterateurs" for the good, the future, the glory of this Dominion. His works remain as his imperishable monument; but the passer-by, who, in our busy, rushing, electric age, has no time to read and to ponder over his glowing pages should have some memorial of a striking character before his eyes, whereby he could recall more easily

and more frequently the features, form, name, works and achievements of the greatest Irishman that ever advocated the cause of his native land while devoting his talents to the future of his adopted country. That the twentieth-century may open with a day-dream of splendor we pray, and we hope that its first rays may shed a halo around McGee's statue on Ottawa's Parliament Hill.

THE WONDERFUL IN TRUTH.

We clip the following report of the proceedings of a recent sitting of the Court of Queen's Bench, from a local daily paper:—

"Mr. Devlin applied for exemption for Mr. William H. Turner, Jr., on the ground that he was engaged on several committees doing organizational work in connection with the day's festivities.

"The Judge said he would use the extreme power given him, and would excuse Mr. Turner. This he did entirely out of deference to the Irish people of the city, and to show the sympathy of the nation and the Empire. We formed a very important part."

St. Patrick's Day, 1900, seems to be a festival of wonders. Elsewhere we have pointed out the exceptional attention paid by all classes, and people of all creeds and races, to the Irish national anniversary. Yet all these ordinary marks of good-will, or of courtesy, cease to awaken any astonishment, when we find a Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, at the time when it seems almost impossible to find jurors enough to suit the requirements of justice, exempting a jurymen for the simple reason that he was an Irishman and a member of several important committees formed for the organization of the national demonstration. The lesson which all this display of sympathy teaches us, is to the effect that in every condition of life, fashion is the ruling power; and fashion generally springs from Royal sources. From the moment that Her Majesty made the concessions towards Ireland and her Irish subjects, every person felt it necessary to go and do likewise. However, no matter what the source of all this zeal for the glory of St. Patrick, we have only to rejoice, and be grateful to the Almighty for so many rays of light that come like beams illuminating the future of both the country and the people.

Well can we quote Scott this year, when he sings: "Old times are changed, old manners gone"—and pray that such may be the case for Ireland—changes for liberty and the disappearance of injustice.

THE HOTEL DIEU.

The proposed land grant to the ladies of the Hotel Dieu continues to be widely debated in public, and even in private circles. We readily understand that many persons may be under the false impression that the whole affair is (to use the language of a learned physician) a "land grabbing scheme." But such people have been misled in their opinions concerning that venerable and splendid institution. No better reply could be given them, than in the words of Mr. Cyrille Laurent, the agent of the Hotel Dieu, when he stated that "the Hotel Dieu ladies spent about \$150,000 a year of their own revenue in taking care of the sick of the city. The city did not allow them anything, and they paid taxes upon all their property, except the Hotel Dieu. They never held any bazaars, or went collecting, as they were cloistered nuns, and had no source of income beyond what was derived from their own property. The granting of the proposed piece of land would be a great benefit to the city, as it would enable the Hotel Dieu to increase its useful work. It was, in a sense, a gift from the city to the city. One hundred ladies, or more, gave their services practically free, their only remuneration being raiment, food and lodging."

Here, in a nutshell, we have the whole argument in favor of the proposed or requested land grant. Why there should be opposition to it is more than we can well comprehend. Of course, we know that an idea prevails amongst certain classes of non-Catholics that the large religious communities—both male and female—of Montreal, are amassing wealth to a fabulous degree, while being exempt from all the obligations of taxes and so forth that fall to the lot of all other property holders; and that any grant, donation, or favor conferred upon them is so much unjustly taken from the citizens in general. While this opinion may have its origin, to a certain extent, in prejudice, it certainly is mostly due to ignorance of facts and in a majority of cases to wilful and unpardonable ignorance.

Why there should exist such a feeling is hard to understand; but, when we consider the benefits, educational and charitable, which the public has long derived from these institutions, the objects of general good that their existence serves to procure for the

whole community, and the impossibility of any other unendowed establishments carrying on the work to which their very lives are silently consecrated, we cease to wonder and we are even astonished that they should not be more fully and fairly appreciated. Gratitude is rare; and they, less than others in the world, do not expect to receive even the smallest share of it. But a sense of common self-interest should dictate, at least, recognition to the degree of ordinary justice, on the part of the great public.

PAPAL DELEGATE AT ST. ANN'S

The parishioners of St. Ann's upheld their reputation on Monday evening, by the enthusiastic reception which they tendered to the Apostolic Delegate, Monsignor Falconio, on the occasion of his first visit to the parish. Every seat in the sacred edifice was occupied, and those who were late had trouble in getting standing room inside the doors. All the societies of the parish, including the St. Ann's T. A. and D. Society, Family Society, St. Ann's Young Men's Society, Catholic Order of Foresters, Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, St. Vincent de Paul, League of the Sacred Heart, and the St. Ann's Cadet Corps, were present in a body. The Rev. Father Strubbe, the zealous pastor of St. Ann's, had charge of all arrangements, and they were carried out in a manner most creditable to the pastor and parishioners.

The delegates, priests and sanctuary boys first went in processional order around the church, after which the following address from the parishioners to His Excellency was read by Ald. Gallery:—

To His Excellency Monsignor D. Falconio, Permanent Apostolic Delegate to Canada:—

May it please Your Excellency, — You have come to a parish whose members are known on this broad land for their devotion to the Catholic Church and to its illustrious head, Leo XIII., who is so worthily represented in the person of Your Excellency.

There are many amongst us who can look back to the time when, twenty years ago, you exercised your holy ministry in the capital of Newfoundland, where your eminent virtues had won for you the love and esteem of the flock over which Providence had placed you.

Your elevation to the high dignity of Archbishop and permanent Delegate Apostolic for our Dominion is sufficient to win the love and esteem of those amongst us who have not already had the honor of knowing you, for loving and trusting our Holy Father the Pope, we shall love and trust his emissary. You will find no more submissive subjects in this Canadian land than the exiled sons and daughters of the land of St. Patrick. Our prayers have daily ascended to Heaven in behalf of the saintly Pontiff who has ruled the destinies of the Catholic world for twenty-two years, and henceforth your name shall be coupled with his in our petition to the Giver of all graces, asking Him to sustain you in the performance of the arduous duties to which you have been called.

We have not been slow to recognize the power of societies, banded together for the furtherance and fostering of a religious spirit, and for the material benefit of their members.

We have in our parish the Catholic Order of Foresters, with a membership of 600; the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, with 200 members; St. Ann's Young Men, 300; St. Ann's 200; St. Ann's Holy Family, 200; League of the Sacred Heart, 2,000; and last, but not least, the schools, under the direction of the zealous Christian Brothers and the Sisters of the Congregation, 1,800 pupils. Thus we hold, on the one hand, the adult population, and on the other, the boys and girls, who, one day, will fill the places of those gone before.

Directing all these associations we have the world-renowned Redemptorist Fathers, whose zeal and devotion are too well known to need any eulogy of ours.

To conclude, allow us to extend to Your Excellency, from warm Irish hearts, a warm Irish welcome to our shores; and offer you the love which fills our bosoms. All we ask in return is that you beseech Almighty God to grant us the grace to be docile to your teaching, true children of the Holy Catholic Church, and ever loyal to her august head, Leo XIII., and to this effect we beseech your Excellency to bestow on us your Apostolic Benediction.

In reply, Mgr. Falconio said:— "I beg to return my sincerest thanks for the beautiful address presented to me in the name of the Irish people of St. Ann's Parish.

"Nothing can afford the Holy Father more pleasure, I can assure you, than to know that he has the love of the Irish people, and that he is by them recognized as the successor of Peter, and the vicar of Jesus Christ. I am not at all surprised to find so much patriotism among you, for if there is a nation on the face of the earth who, notwithstanding tremendous trials, has remained faithful to our holy religion, it is Ireland, the home of martyrs and the island of saints. I may say I know the Irish race. I had the pleasure of spending the first years of my ministry in their midst, and those days are days of sweet remembrance, which shall never be forgotten.

At the conclusion of his address, he bestowed upon all present the Pontifical blessing.

His Excellency celebrated Pontifical Benediction, assisted by Fathers Ripon and Caron, during which the church choir rendered the following musical programme, under the direction of Prof. P. J. Shea, organist and musical director, and Mr. Wm. Murphy, as conductor:—

Es Sacerdos Azoli
Grand Chorus.
Ave Maria Melarey
Solo—Mr. M. Mullarky.
Tantum Ergo Wagner
Grand Chorus.

Marche Pontifical, Organ Lemmens
After Benediction a reception was held in the presbytery for all the Newfoundland people in the parish, as His Grace was anxious to meet some of those people, with whom he had spent nine or ten years of his ministry, over twenty years ago. Several of those who came to the reception he remembered well, although he had not seen them for twenty-two years.

St. Ann's Cadets, headed by their life and drum band and bugle corps, acted as a guard of honor, and escorted the delegate, who was accompanied by the Rev. Luke Callaghan, of the Archbishop's Palace, to and from the church. When he arrived at the presbytery he was received by Rev. Father Strubbe, the clergy of the parish, the wardens of the church, and Ald. Gallery and Ald. Tansey.

Monsignor Falconio's reception was certainly a warm Irish welcome, which he is not likely to soon forget. Monday morning Mgr. Falconio visited St. Laurent College, where he was given a grand reception. In the afternoon he inspected the college of the Holy Cross Fathers at Cote des Neiges.

THE LATE MR JOHN GILLIES

It is generally believed that the Catholic journalist, the man who dedicates his life and all its energies to the elevating and patriotic task, of instructing, guiding and assisting his fellow-countrymen and co-religionists, receives no due recognition for all his labors and sacrifices. In some cases, it is true, neglect has been the reward of the Catholic journalist; but when a man has done sufficient for Catholic publication to have made an unlimited reputation, he rarely gets unrequited "even in this world." Of the men whose whole lives have been consecrated to the noble—but generally ungrateful—task of building up a literature that might one day well serve the purposes of our race in America and Canada, we can mention two who



LATE MR. JOHN GILLIES.

have been universally admired and respected—Patrick Donahue, of Boston, and John Gillies, of Montreal. It is here in the office of the good old organ which he accompanied, as a proprietor, for nearly twenty-five years, that the work he has accomplished is fully recognized. From the days of Dr. Clerk—the founder and trenchant editor of the "True Witness"—down to 1877, when the late Captain Kewin took charge, Mr. Gillies had swayed the doctrines of the Irish Catholic organ. The very best monument, one more enduring than brass, which he has left behind him, consists in the fact that he never once made an enemy, nor ever lost a friend. When age "came on with its winter," he seemed to be able to weather the storm of years with a placid contentment, as far as the present is concerned, a satisfaction regarding the past, and hopefulness in all pertaining to the future.

When the wing of Death's angel cast its shadow upon his noble and yet humbly great character, he had lived eighty-two years, during which period the "True Witness" and "The Harp" bear evidence of activity far beyond the ordinary. Mr. Gillies was a native of Enniskillen, Ireland, whence he emigrated to Canada in the year 1841. He had learned the printing business, in all its details, in Ireland, and was one of the most highly esteemed members of the trade.

He was public-spirited, though not demonstrative in his manner, and was captain of No. 4 Company of the Prince of Wales Rifles under Colonel Wylie and Colonel Devlin, in the early sixties, having retired retaining his rank before 1866. He was a member of St. Patrick's Society, and took much interest in it, especially after he had retired from business. Mrs. John P. Hammill and Mrs. S. Cross, of Montreal, and three sons, Mr. Thomas Gillies, of Chicago; Mr. John Gillies, of Detroit, and Mr. James Gillies, of Montreal. The funeral took place on Monday morning, from Mr. Cross's residence, No. 55 Cathcart street, at eight o'clock, to St. Patrick's Church, and thence to Cote des Neiges.

May his good soul rest in peace in our humble prayer, while conveying to his bereaved relatives and intimate friends the sincere expression of our heartfelt condolence.

IRISH SUNBURST.

Mr. P. A. Milloy, of St. Andre street, had displayed from his residence, on St. Patrick's Day, a magnificent Irish Sunburst, which he had imported direct from Dublin.

RECENT DEATHS.

M. J. O'SHAUGHNESSY. — It is always with a profound sense of a serious loss sustained that we record the deaths of young and promising members of our community. Rarely have we felt that spirit more powerfully than on the occasion of the death of an esteemed and most popular fellow-citizen—Mr. J. O'Shaughnessy. The deceased, who was still young in years, was unmarried, and was just about to commence what, in all human probability, would have been a most successful career. The funeral was so largely and representatively attended, that no better evidence could be given of the popularity of the deceased. The one whose early death we lament was a son of the late Mr. J. O'Shaughnessy, and nephew of Messrs. M. and D. O'Shaughnessy. The sad event took place on Sunday last—after a brief but irresistible attack of typhoid pneumonia. Of the relatives that the departed one has left to weep his sudden disappearance from this world, are his mother and his sister, Miss O'Shaughnessy, of D. J. Sadlier's well-known publishing house. Mr. O'Shaughnessy had been employed as book-keeper at the Montreal Rolling Mills. In every sphere he had a host of friends, and their friendship was such that the news of his unexpected demise will surprise and afflict them all. May his soul rest in peace!

SISTER ST. IRENE.—The following touching tribute to a most devout member of the Grey Nuns' community, deserves reproduction in its entirety:—

"In the passing of Sister St. Irene (Mary Hart), whose death occurred Saturday night at the Water street convent, Ottawa, the Grey Nuns are called to mourn one of the most cherished members of their order. Young, talented, amiable, devout, she was a shining light in the performance of the manifold details of duty as defined in a religious order.

"Sister St. Irene in the brief term of her existence—she had lived but twenty-seven years, of which seven were spent in the order—was employed successively at St. Patrick's School, Ottawa, at the Matfawa School, and at St. Mary's Academy, Ogdensburg, N.Y., in all of which places the kindest remembrances are treasured of her. Her life was gentle, brave, admirable, her illness patient, resigned, filled with an eternal hope; her death, patiently and actually beautiful.

"Sister St. Irene was the only daughter of Mr. John Hart, an esteemed resident of Buffalo, N. Y. There remains of the family five sons, four of whom live in Buffalo, and one in Milwaukee, Wis. The funeral will take place to-morrow morning.

A NEW BOOK

THE BOY-SAYERS' SERIES, Booklet the First. By the Rev. George E. Quin, S.J.

For those who are not acquainted with the author of this booklet and the splendid work he has been engaged in for years with his boys, there is nothing very catchy about the title page. Still, it is not a book we can afford to ignore if we are interested in the great social questions of the day. Of these, boy-saving is certainly not the least important—possibly it is the answer to all the others.

Father Quin is not at all a theoretician. Everything he says is the ripe fruit of experience, and may be seen any day at St. Joseph's Church, Troy. For years he has been dealing with boys, and his success is as amazing as it would be disheartening to those who would emulate his zeal, did he not show them that after all no very brilliant qualities or extraordinary gifts are required; and that tasks quite as difficult as those of a boy's leader are every day set and taken up by multitudes of men. There is a deal of breath and ink wasted nowadays over the great social redemption of our young men. What are we to do to save them? The school, of course, must do its share—so must the young men's society. But both these causes have been at work, and yet they seem to have failed to a great extent. The Boy-Sayers' Series proposes some new plans—lays down a few true, very true and striking principles—shows, for instance, how the school is only the first step, leading the child only as far as the ground marked dangerous; how the young men's society comes often too late, and that even when most attractive will not reach the great mass of those who need it most. Father Quin then proposes a solution to these difficulties. The boy must be caught after he has left school, and while he is yet in short pants. If caught, then, he can be held, and all this is shown to be far easier than ever we dreamed of. The 400 credentials in the frontispiece of the Booklet are a living and very active proof of this assertion. A 1,000 such sodalities over Canada and the United States would group together 400,000 boys at an age when otherwise they would be absolutely without any of those influences for good which are at least as necessary then as earlier or later in life. We take it for granted that those who have the cure of souls are very much in earnest in their work. If they can spare half an hour, this first Booklet will repay them for its perusal. Copies may be had, for a trifle, from the Sacred Heart Library, West 16th street, New York.

PERSONAL.

Mr. E. Mansfield, the popular shoemaker, who has been visiting Quebec during the past week in connection with the purchase of special lines of spring and summer goods, returned to the city on Friday evening, highly elated over the success of his visit.

Strive to live in a perpetual readiness to die, and this you will attain if you learn to love Our Lord's presence now.