

# The True Witness and Catholic Chronicle.

Printed and Published by the True Witness P. & P. Co., Limited,

178 St. James Street, Montreal, Canada.

P. O. BOX 1138.

## SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

CITY OF MONTREAL, Delivered,	\$1.50
OTHER PARTS OF CANADA,	1.00
UNITED STATES,	1.00
NEWFOUNDLAND,	1.00
GREAT BRITAIN, IRELAND AND FRANCE,	1.50
BELGIUM, ITALY, GERMANY AND AUSTRALIA,	2.00

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TERMS, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

## 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 17, 1900.

## THE CELTIC RACE.

It has been customary, for almost one hundred years back, on each St. Patrick's Day, for the Irish race to proclaim that never before were the prospects of an early dawning of freedom more bright. Such is the buoyancy, hopefulness and faith of the "Ancient Race," that, no matter how deep the gloom, they behold flashes of light through its shadows, and they look cheerfully forward to the "long, long wished-for hour," when the old Land would take her rank amongst the nations of the world. Too often, however, were these glorious anticipations destined to be shattered, and the beams of gladness to be sheathed in a cloud of disappointment. Still, this year, we feel that there is reason to believe and cause to express the assurance that on the face of Erin the smile is about to remove the tear, and that the shadows, although not wholly vanished, are golden like the flush of the dawn upon the eastern hills.

This is the last St. Patrick's Day of the nineteenth century, and it beholds Ireland still deprived of legislative autonomy. The last St. Patrick's Day of the eighteenth century, witnessed an Irish Parliament—a tottering and doomed one, but still a native legislature—in session in Dublin. Ninety-nine times has the face of Ireland's great Patron Saint been celebrated since the last voice of an independent Irish representative was heard in the old house on College Green. Ninety-nine times have the children of the Celtic Race united—at home and abroad—to commemorate this day, and each time did they pray for a breaking of that "Act of the Union," which has been the curse of the land and the ruin of its people. On more than one occasion was it fondly hoped that within a twelve month Ireland's Home Rule would become an accomplished fact; each time the cup of happiness seemed to be dashed from the lips of Erin just as they were about to touch its rim.

Would it be surprising to behold, on next St. Patrick's Day, the restoration of a native Irish legislature? We have beheld more wonderful events within a couple of months past. Moreover, the Union has had a trial of a century, and it has proved to be a failure in every particular. As the nineteenth century's orb dawned upon the cradle of that unfortunate Union, so may the last sun of the same century set upon its unhallowed grave. The Irish people have attempted every means, rebellion, agitation, insurrection, parliamentary, or constitutional efforts, and all in vain. From the head of the British Empire down to the last, or humblest of her legislators, all have been prejudiced against Ireland and her cause, and all have combated the idea of granting any legislative latitude to the sister island. But a change is coming over "the spirit of their dream."

In the first place, we have beheld the unexpected re-union of the different sections of the Irish Parliamentary Party, and that movement has been most significant. It has taken place exactly at a moment when Great Britain is most in need of Irish arms, Irish valor, and Irish friendliness. Its importance has at once been recognized, and the universal manner in which it has been regarded

in England tells in most eloquent terms of the giant advance made by the Parliamentary representatives in the direction of their great goal.

After thirty odd years of studied avoidance of Ireland, Queen Victoria has, of her own accord, and without even a suggestion, as far as we know, decided to visit the country and to make herself more familiar with the needs of the land. A less important, but not less significant act, is that of creating an Irish Guard's regiment, on a footing with the Coldstream and similar veteran regiments of the army. A still more remarkable fact is that Her Majesty has given orders that all Irish soldiers should wear sprigs of Shamrocks on their uniforms on St. Patrick's Day. Judging from all these happenings—great and small—we can come to the reasonable conclusion, that they are so many paving stones to lay at the opening of Ireland's "Highway to Freedom."

Were it not even thus; were the intolerant anti-Irish spirit not so obviously being crushed out of existence, still the positions occupied by the Irish Celts in all countries and under all conditions would suffice to place the country in a far more hopeful condition than any she had occupied since 1801. Out on the great ocean the brave sailors of the Celtic race hold their own with the best and most accomplished navigators of the deep; down in the diamond, coal, silver and gold mines of two hemispheres the cheerful Celt is digging up the hidden treasures of earth; wherever the iron-horse snorts on the confines of a desert or a wilderness, there are Irish hands there to lay tracks for his advance; on the red fields where race crushes race in the hopes of supremacy, the arm of the Celt wields the most trenchant sword and he displays the most consummate heroism; in the higher ranks of ecclesiastical life the Celt wears the mitre and scatters blessings upon the human family; amongst the leaders of the medical and legal professions, on the bench, in the great mart of commerce, holding the helm of state, in the realms of art, science, literature, in the ever widening expanses of agricultural and industrial life, in all spheres the Celt has asserted himself, and the race to-day, in all quarters of the globe, has become a power that challenges recognition.

Under such circumstances, it is not to be wondered at that a greater hopefulness arises in the bosom of poor down-trodden Erin. The day has come when Great Britain sees the absolute necessity of Ireland's friendship and co-operation, if she is to hold her own against the ever growing strength of other powers; and in that very necessity do we behold the guarantee of a speedy triumph for the cause of Irish Home Rule: May next St. Patrick's Day behold the opening of the first session of Ireland's first Parliament since the act of the Union.

## "THE WEARING OF THE GREEN."

If the character of the well-known old ballad were to "meet Naper Tan dy" to-day, he would not be obliged to inform that exile that they were "hanging men and women for the wearing of the green."

Never before, on St. Patrick's Day, has Irish stock gone up to such

a high pitch and so universally. A few months ago the Irish people were as little considered by many of those who to-day are loudest in their praise and appreciation, as they had been for long generations. Yet the race has not changed; it is public sentiment that has, become more sane within a very short space of time. We have been so long accustomed to see Ireland ignored, to find the artist painting her in caricature and the musician chanting her in burlesque, that we had become accustomed to, and we might almost say had accepted as a matter of course, all the ridicule cast upon the emblem of our nationality and all the misrepresentation to which our fellow-countrymen and the land of our fathers were subjected.

Suddenly, however, there has been an awakening from that long nightmare of centuries. Unexpectedly, spontaneously, contagiously has an enthusiastic admiration for Ireland and her sons, her emblem and her holy Patron, sprung into existence. From the Queen down to the last of her English, Scotch, Welsh and other subjects, there is, to-day a veritable rivalry in the degrees of fervor displayed on all sides. Her Majesty has ordered the army to wear the Shamrock on St. Patrick's Day; the Protestant press has advocated a general display of green upon this anniversary; the most anti-Irish Englishmen—at home and here—are contending with each other for the honor of possessing and wearing the greatest amount of Ireland's national color.

We see under all this veil of mystery, from beneath whose folds it has nearly vanished, a hope for the future of the country. We are confident that the initial step taken by Her Majesty and imitated by almost all her English subjects, is but the prelude to a general uprising in favor of Irish Home Rule. We feel confident that the hour, so long awaited, looked forward to with so much patience, so much confidence, so much determination, is about to strike upon the clock of time, and as it rings out, the sunburst of Irish freedom will flash upon the hill-tops of the land and illumine with unfading glory the ruined shrines and shattered aisles of the nation's desolate grandeur.

Half a century ago that mighty prophet in the temple of Ireland's endurance—the late Rev. Dr. D. W. Cahill—made a statement, which the wonderful facts of the case to-day prove to have been actually prophetic. It was to Lord Palmerston that the great champion of Ireland's cause thus wrote:—

"My Lord: the day will come, under the secret and chemical operation of a broader civilization, on which the true worth of my people will be recognized and acknowledged. Strange and fanciful as the picture may now seem, I behold a period when the slopes of futurity, when the 'green' will be honored in the very halls of your legislature, the shamrock will decorate the breasts of your military, and the very sovereign of the realm will be inspired with a love for and a confidence in the Irish people. I will not live to behold it, no more will you, my Lord—and Ireland has countless trials to undergo, reverses to meet, before that goal is reached—but as certain as the sun will rise over the Hill of Howth and set beyond the heights of Connemara, so surely will the genius of the race, one day receive the homage of the British people. The sword of Elizabeth, the cannon of Cromwell, the statutes of the Pale will be relegated to the barbarism whence they drew their existence, and a grander impulse, seizing upon the people of England, will thrill through every vein and artery of her wonderful Empire. In that hour the visions of Irish statesmen will be realized, the prophecies of Irish bards will be fulfilled, the prayers of Irish martyrs will be granted, and centuries of wrong will be swallowed up in the whirlpool of enthusiasm that my country's enemies shall experience at mention of her name, or at sight of green Shamrock of Erin."

It seems to us that the prediction of Dr. Cahill is about to be fulfilled; may it please God to permit the entire accomplishment of Ireland's wishes and of her children's desires! May this St. Patrick's Day behold these great things!

## TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We must thank a number of our subscribers who have been prompt in renewing their subscriptions; we trust their example will be followed by others. This is a season when we generally receive a large number of renewals. We hope those in arrears will take the hint and remit the small amount they owe.

Our next issue will contain special reports of St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Montreal and other leading centres in Canada, as well as of the demonstrations in other parts of the world.

## LECTURES TO TEACHERS.

It may interest our readers, especially those connected with educational matters, and more particularly the teachers to know something about the "Teachers' Pension Act" in the Old Country. At a meeting of the Catholic Teachers' Association of the West of Scotland, held in Glasgow, a paper was read by Mr. James Bonner, Head Master of St. Patrick's School, Coatbridge, on the Pension Act. Mr. Bonner had made a study of the Act in as far as it applied to Catholic schools. Amongst other things, by way of criticism and advice, Mr. Bonner said:—

Up to the end of September of last year as many as 48,000 teachers in England had accepted the Act, and by the end of March every one of the 10,000 certificated teachers in Scotland who wish to join must have returned the acceptance forms to Dover House.

He trusted that every teacher would join, for only from within could they hope to secure—as they certainly would secure—the future amendment of the Act. He admitted to the full that the Act was far from satisfying—the age for retirement was too high, and the allowance from the Treasury too low; but teachers would not improve matters by standing aloof from their fellows.

Besides, after a few years, when one considered the large annual influx to the profession, things would be very much different, as year by year large numbers of future teachers would be added to the ranks. Last year over ten thousand teachers passed the scholarship examination, of whom a very fair proportion would become certificated, and hence of necessity become members of the fund.

That Canada is not the only country where teachers are underpaid will be seen from what the lecturer next said:—

"If the allowances under the Act were small, they were, however, princely when compared with some of the salaries paid in English schools to teachers quite as fully certificated as themselves. Would they be surprised to know that 218 certificated mistresses earned less than £40 a year; that 140 earned between £40 and £45; and 775 between £45 and £50. The salaries for men also showed many depressing figures, but, at the same time, he congratulated those present that their lives had been thrown in pleasant places than the teachers whose hard struggles be quoted. He would ask them, therefore, while considering the small allowances under the Act to think at the same time of the figures he had given."

Mr. Bonner then compared the pensions given to Irish teachers to Australian and German, as also to the Civil Servants, railway and tram conductors. He also referred to the annuities granted by insurance societies, and admitted that better terms might be got from some of them, but he questioned if disablement allowances were granted by any of such companies. Regarding the higher pensions granted to Colonial teachers, he pointed out that very much larger premiums were paid by the teachers.

Before closing his lecture Mr. Bonner took the blackboard and worked out several illustrations of how the Act would affect different persons at different ages, and the superannuation annuity, and disablement to be given to each. He said the disablement allowance was the best feature in the Act. While a superannuation allowance would be granted only when one served for half the number of years between certification and 65, a disablement allowance would be given when one had served half the number of years between certification and disablement, provided it was a period of at least 10 years since the teacher passed the certificate examination. The age of 55 was shown to be a rather bad one for benefiting under the Act, as the allowances work out less than those granted to a man of 65, who pays his contribution. The disablement allowance was thought to be accompanied by a searching inquiry into the savings of the teacher, but this has been shown to be inaccurate as far as professional income is concerned. Nor will the fact that the teacher's wife or husband still teaches in any way interfere with the application from either for a disablement, nor would an allowance from any friendly society, say the Foresters, Hearts of Oak, or other society, prevent a man from applying under this provision.

## ST. VINCENT'S HOME.

Karn Hall was well filled with a highly appreciative audience on Monday night last, the occasion being an illustrated lecture, by Rev. E. J. Devine, S.J., on a trip from Atlantic to Pacific over the Canadian Pacific Railway. The object of the entertainment was to increase the funds of St. Vincent's Home for immigrant children. As was explained by the Chairman, Dr. Foran, in his introductory remarks, this is one of several most beneficial, but unfortunately too little known and encouraged institutions that are established for the greater good of Canada. Miss Brennan, to whose indefatigable perseverance the Home owes its present promising position is the life and soul of the establishment. The object is to bring to Canada children, ranging from two or three to fourteen years of age, and to secure for them homes in this country, in order that

they may grow up with our young Dominion, and become worthy citizens of the future. One feature of the project commends itself at once to every person. These children, uncontaminated by the vices of the old world, are in a state that permits of their characters being formed and their lives moulded for great good. In five years Miss Brennan has received and distributed into reliable homes 452 children, besides caring for some 75 that had been unfortunately placed by other agencies. She only receives what is sent to her from England on receipt of each child. The Home has, as yet, no Government grant, nor does it receive a cent of aid from any parish. This fourth annual entertainment was given for the purpose of aiding Miss Brennan in her splendid work.

Several friends kindly gave their aid in making the evening a most enjoyable one. Miss Marguerite Whitton's debut as an elocutionist, was most happy, and should prove a promising owner for that gifted young lady's future. Mr. A. J. Smith, whose splendid baritone, has charmed so many audiences, sang with vigor, taste and artistic power. Mrs. J. T. Scanlan, one of Montreal's most popular and talented soprano soloists, sang "A Song of Praise" in a manner that elicited universal and favorable comment, as well as applause that, from its heartiness, should have made the sweet singer thrill with satisfaction. Miss M. Donovan presided at the piano with that ability and tact for which, as a musician, and especially as an organist, she has won her way to an immense popularity. The entire labor of organizing the entertainment fell to the duty of Mr. J. P. Curran, whose zeal and unflinching labor were highly rewarded in the marked success of the evening.

The principal feature, however, was a lecture, illustrated with 250 or more magnificent time-light views, by Rev. Father Devine, S.J. From ocean to ocean—from Atlantic to Pacific—the audience was rapidly carried; stopping for a brief space at Halifax, Tadoussac, Ste. Anne, Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa; thence across Lake Superior to Port Arthur, onward to Calgary, the vast plains of the Northwest, and finally, through the giant defiles of the stupendous Rockies. Father Devine's accurate descriptions, tallied with the illustrations, and his fund of historical information made the lecture fully as instructive as it was amusing. His references to the great wave of patriotic pride sweeping all the Empire was timely, while his inspiring words in presence of the snow-capped monarchs of the Rockies will long remain a glad memory in the minds of the audience.

## RECENT DEATHS.

### DEATH OF MRS. J. P. BOYLE.

It was with most intense sorrow that the news of the death of Mrs. J. P. Boyle, nee Miss Winifred Donohue, was received by her numerous friends throughout the city on Monday, 12th inst., at 8 o'clock, p.m. The deceased lady had been ailing for upwards of six months. She first was taken with a severe cold which developed into inflammation of the lungs, and notwithstanding that her mother, sister and family did everything they could for the sufferer, it was impossible to ward off a fatal termination, consumption had claimed her as its victim. Mrs. Boyle was popular and much admired for her many beautiful traits of character. She at all times took deep interest in church matters, and there are few poor who were not the recipients of her generosity from time to time. Mrs. Boyle was in the prime of life, and leaves a sorrowing husband and large young family to mourn her loss.

The funeral took place Wednesday morning, at 8 o'clock, from the residence of her sister, Mrs. J. Flynn, 46 Argyle Ave., to St. Anthony's Church, and thence to Cote des Neiges Cemetery. The attendance at the funeral bore testimony to the popularity which the deceased enjoyed during her honored life. The "True Witness" extends to the family its sincere sympathy.—R.I.P.

REV. ABBE SORIN.—The Rev. Abbe Sorin, one of the most widely known members of the Sulpician Order in Montreal, who had been ill for some weeks, at the Grey Nunnery, died on Wednesday morning last. Vincent Charles Sorin was a native of France. He was born near Nantes on May 5, 1834. His father was a noted physician of that locality. The future priest studied classics in the college of his native place. In 1857 he entered the Seminary of St. Sulpice in Paris, and two years later was ordained priest. Immediately after his ordination he was sent to Canada, and has ever since resided in Montreal. His first charge was in connection with St. James Church, where he remained until 1867. Thence he was transferred to Notre Dame Church, but a year later was connected with St. Joseph Church. He remained only two years in this position, when he was recalled to Notre Dame, where he remained until the time of his death. Since 1868 he has also acted as chaplain to the little Church of Notre-Dame-de-Pitie; he was also chaplain of the Catholic Commercial Academy.

His pulpit eloquence was of a very high order, and will long be remembered by the congregation. He was an untiring worker in the grand cause of education, and he established three scholarships—two in Canada and one in France. One by one the good and holy men who laid the foundations of some of our best institutions are slowly passing away—passing never to return; but their memories will remain green for many decades to come—of these Father Sorin was a most conspicuous member of that honored group. May his grand sacerdotal soul rest in eternal peace.

REV. WILLIAM D. KELLY.—The readers of the Catholic press of America are all familiar with the name of Rev. William D. Kelly, the

poet, historian, journalist and author. After an illness of less than three weeks this gifted writer died, a few days ago, at his home in Dorchester, Mass. A contemporary says: "Father Kelly's death leaves a void in the Catholic press and Catholic literature generally, which will be hard to fill. He was a living encyclopedia of ecclesiastical information. He was a native of Dundalk, County Louth, Ireland. He came to America in 1850, and has since lived in Boston and vicinity. He was an alumnus of Holy Cross College, and made his theological studies in the Montreal Grand Seminary, where he was ordained priest January 30, 1870."

As to Father Kelly's literary career the "Catholic Columbian," to which he greatly contributed, says that Father Kelly was the editor of the "Providence Visitor" during the first year of its career, and was a contributor to its pages up to the time of his last illness. He has written articles of a different character, biographical, historical and critical for a number of Catholic publications, including "The Columbian," "Catholic Transcript," "the Republic," "Sacred Heart Review," "Pilot," "New World," "Ave Maria," "Rosary Magazine," "Catholic World," "Catholic Citizen," "Donohoe's Magazine" and others. Most of his poems have appeared in the "Pilot," "Ave Maria," "Republic," "Rosary Magazine" and "Visitor." Some of the products of his muse appeared occasionally in the "Ladies' Home Journal," "Frank Leslie's" and other secular publications.—R.I.P.

## THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

"We expect to be in South Africa for a year," writes the commanding officer of a section of the Canadian contingent to a friend in Detroit, says the "News-Tribune." "Lord Roberts is preparing to strike a hard blow at the Boers, and we are speculating not so much on whether he will succeed, as whether it will place the enemy on the defensive all along the line."

"It is the general impression among the British officers here that our hardest task will be in hemming in Pretoria. We hear that the Boers are constructing a series of detached fortifications between Pretoria and Johannesburg, forming a chain to connect the two cities. If they have big guns enough to arm all of these, we will have our work cut out for us. They will have no trouble in throwing up the intrenchments, for they have any amount of forced native labor, but it will go hard with them to find guns enough for a gigantic system of fortifications like that."

"One thing you may be sure of, we will not make any attempt to carry strongly fortified positions by storm. All sorts of intrenching tools are being moved to the front, and our boys will have a chance to handle pick and shovel in front of the Boer fortifications. In such a warfare the attacking party masses its guns behind earthworks to silence the enemy's artillery, and the infantry dig trenches and parallels up to the enemy's works."

"Burrowing in the ground like a lot of rabbits may take us longer than we expect, but we can take all the time we want to it, and we will have our supplies sent up by railway almost to the very spot where the fighting is going on. There is one road we can use all the way, and the other we will be able to use as far as Mafeking. I suppose by that time, we will have an extension built from Mafeking to Pretoria, and we will not want for stores. Under these conditions life in the trenches can be made fairly comfortable."

## THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

The approach of the Exhibition, which is to open on the 15th of April, is beginning to be felt in all quarters; indeed, there is already a tendency among shopkeepers to increase the price of their goods, and the cabmen are already considering the advisability of a future strike in the thick of the season. Meanwhile, much interest is taken in the forthcoming publication of the Official Catalogue of the Exhibition, which is in the printers' hands. This terrible catalogue shall comprise no less than 80 octavo volumes. There are 76,000 exhibitors to whom space has officially been allotted, 40,000 French and 36,000 foreign, and 24,000 classed as "temporary exhibitors" in all 100,000. This total exceeds by 37,000 the total of 1889. In addition to those details, the catalogue shall contain some interesting information on the state of trade and manufactures in France, and professional census tables showing for each industry the number of employers and employed per industry and per district in France.

## CATHOLICS AND SUICIDE STATISTICS.

At a recent meeting held under the auspices of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, when Sir John Sibbald delivered a lecture on "The Statistics of Suicide in Scotland," a rather important statement was made by Dr. Clouston. He said:—

"There was no question that the Celt, with his vivid imagination, although he was often melancholic, yet feared 'the last resort' more than the Teuton did. Also he thought he was less determined, and he was in that way nearer womanhood. German authors pointed out that the Roman Catholic portions of their Fatherland did not show so many suicides as the Protestant part. That undoubtedly was a definite fact founded on German statistics. There they had the moral and religious element coming in, which prevented men and women committing suicide, even when they were diseased and felt suicidal, when things were going wrong with them and when from the reasoning point of view suicide was the proper thing."

Such a confession from a Protestant scientist is worthy of note—and pigeon-holing.—Catholic Herald.