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VOL. XI, No. 38

TORONTO, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1903

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Lamentations of an Oldtimer

A Fifty Years' Review of Catholics and Catholicity in Toronto

Old Friends Dead and Gone, and But Few of a Past Generation Left

763 West Madison Street, Chicago, Sept. 14, 1903.

Dear Register:

Some few weeks ago I noticed in your columns the passing away of two of my old Toronto friends—Mother Chantal and Mr. Taylor, of the Normal School—and speculated on who of my old Toronto friends are now left. Easily, I believe, can I count them on my ten digits. They keep dropping, dropping away. When I went to live in Toronto in 1849, there was only one Catholic Church then open in the city—St. Michael's Cathedral—with St. Paul's, the old pioneer Catholic edifice, closed. That patriarchal priest, Father John Carroll, was then administrator of the diocese and church affairs were in a rather unsatisfactory condition until the arrival of Bishop Count De Charbonnel, in 1850. There were but two or three little school-houses then—one on Nelson street, one at St. Paul's, and one on Stanley street. I had the good fortune to have once seen and heard Bishop Power, the first Bishop of Toronto diocese—a most wonderfully gifted and fascinating man. But, alas, how little you hear said of his memory now.

When he had dug the foundation for St. Michael's Cathedral it laid at rest for a time, and there were those who thought it could never be built, but built it was. The Protestants said the Irish servant girls did it!

Toronto had even then a very fine and respectable Catholic community. I wish I could think of them all. The late Captain Elmley was, of course, the leading layman. There were also ranking professionally high, Dr. King, Mr. De la Haye, Mr. Lawrence Hayden, Dr. J. J. Hayes, Maurice Scollard, Mr. St. George, Col. Baldwin, of the Gore, and a number of others that will not rise to my memory. Among the Catholic business men were Terence J. O'Neill, auctioneer; Peter O'Neill, wholesale dry goods; Martin J. O'Beirne, clothing; John and Malachy O'Donoghue, auctioneers; Patrick and Bernard Hughes dry goods and clothing; S. G. Lynn, crockery ware; Hayes Brothers, general merchants and ship-builders; James Stock, grocer; Patrick Foy, of Foy & Austin, wholesale grocers; Thomas Dugdale, grocer; Charles Robertson, grocer; Mr. O'Dea, clothing; John Shea, contractor; Charles Donlevy, publisher Mirror newspaper; John Murphy, proprietor Western Hotel; John Murphy, hotelkeeper (another man); Patrick Doyle, Arcade merchant; Mr. Molloy, caretaker Osgoode Hall; James McMahon, tailor; Joseph Boudidier, tailor; John and James Mallon, printers; Hynes Bros., plasterers; Patrick Boyle, printer; John McDonnell was a grain buyer; so was Laurence Coffey, who became an important member of the Board of Trade, along with Thos. Flynn, his bookkeeper. Jeremiah Merrick was at this time employed in Peter Patterson's dry goods store, before he married Miss Patterson and succeeded to the business. Shortly after my first touch with Toronto, Mr. W. A. Murray came down from Hamilton, like myself, and opened up his fine dry goods store on King street, and with his family made a handsome accession to the Catholic community. But there were those ladies that added grace and dignity to our congregation of St. Michael's more than half a century ago. Mrs. Boulton, Mrs. Sherwood, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. King, Mrs. O'Donoghue, Mrs. T. J. O'Neill, Mrs. Peter O'Neill, etc., etc.

There was not a single Catholic in the Toronto City Council when the writer first went to the city. Everything was Orange. The Hayes Brothers were spirited men and aimed to do something, but unsuccessfully, for Catholic representation, so did Terence J. O'Neill, but he, too, failed. At last William Murphy was elected for St. Lawrence Ward, ex-Senator O'Donoghue, for St. David's, and Jas. Stock for St. Lawrence. Other attempts were made at different times. Mr. O'Donoghue, by his good tactics, succeeded at one time in the sixties in making such combinations as turned some of the Orangemen out and put liberal Protestants in their places. My, but those were strenuous times, for some of us.

Among those that came up from Montreal with the government people in 1849 were D. K. Feehan and W. J. McDonnell. Mr. Feehan was the agent of the Montreal Type Foundry, and Mr. McDonnell of a shipping company. These men that started the Toronto Savings Bank. Mr. Feehan also started an Irish military company of which he was captain. Martin Hayes was lieutenant and Eugene O'Keefe second lieutenant.

When the writer went to Toronto in 1847 Irish sentiment in the city was utterly dead. There was no St. Patrick's day celebration of any kind on the 17th day of March. There was one following St. Patrick's day, gotten up by a society of young men, and when they could do no better they held it in the old Stanley street schoolhouse. It was pronounced a great success and Irish sentiment spread and Irish spirit rose. We had secured an orator in a fine, young educated Irish Catholic, who came up from Quebec with the government—Samuel B. McCoy by name. Alas, his span of life was a short one. We found another named Kavanagh, a bright, young mechanic, lately come from the West.

The organization of the Catholic Institute in the early fifties was one of the literary enterprises undertaken during Bishop De Charbonnel's episcopacy. Cardinal Wiseman had started those institutions in England and in Toronto we soon followed suit. Nearly all our Catholic gentlemen joined it and for two or three years it was very active, with debates, lectures and petitions. The clergy joined in with it. Terence J. O'Neill was its first president, Dr. Hayes was the third. Some lawyers and doctors began to come to us by this time, several of whom were active in the Institute. Among them were James Hallinan, Dr. James O'Dea and Dr. John Lennon. Let me not forget James Tracy, one of the finest young men that ever lived. He died young.

When the Catholic Institute ceased to be active the Young Men's St. Patrick Society was started. It had its hall in the east wing of the St. Lawrence building. The active members of this society were the late Senator O'Donoghue, president; Thos. McCrosson, William Halley, Eugene O'Keefe, Michael Murphy, Patrick Boyle, etc.

The first visit of Thomas D'Arcy McGee to Toronto, in 1855, on a lecture tour, was an event that stirred us up and gave us courage. He gave two lectures: "Ireland as Men's first president," and "Irish Emigration" were his subjects. They were delivered in St. Lawrence Hall and Col. Baldwin of the Gore was chairman. His appearance among us three years later as member of Parliament for Montreal City, was a congratulatory event. Never had man friends to rally around him as we did him.

I wonder if any of the Glangarry McDonnells, or their successors, are now flourishing among you? When I first knew Allan McDonnell he was Sheriff of Wentworth County, residing in Hamilton. He subsequently devoted his attention to mining along Lake Superior, and did more perhaps than any other man for opening that country with his Glangarry push and tenacity. His residence was in the western part of the city, I think on Richmond street. He had two brothers—one was a society man, and married one of the Miss De la Hayes. He was a stock broker by occupation. Those were the days when Catholics did not find it easy to get along without strife in Toronto, as Orangeism was rampant, and our poorer classes were ever on the defensive, but they delivered a blow for blow!

Then came allies in the form of the Parliamentary people from Quebec in 1850. The Baldwin-Lafontaine administration was then in power. Mrs. Lafontaine, wife of the Lower Canada Premier, was a fine lady, and interested herself in charitable and church work. That was a proud period for the Catholics of Toronto. Bishop De Charbonnel brought a good many priests to the diocese, reopened St. Paul's Church, built St. Mary's, St. Basil's, St. Michael's College and the House of Providence. He was a man of extraordinary energy and apostolic devotion. He brought the Sisters of Charity and made his tremendous fight for Separate Schools for Catholics, and won after a bitter, brutal ten year's struggle. Mr. Scott, now your venerable Secretary of State, fathering the bill in Parliament. No people ever received such abuse as the Catholics of Ontario received during that tremendous struggle, running part of the fifties and part of the sixties. Mr. Scott and Mr. Sandfield Macdonald were the only Catholics in Parliament from Canada West most of this time.

Let me retrograde that I may pick up my dropped lines. How many noble people, how many dear old Toronto friends (the best I ever had) have I known to drop by the wayside, since in a whim or a disappointment, I left my dear old Toronto home, where my friendships were formed and affections clustered! What a procession to the grave! Listen!

Of those there are two bishops and two archbishops. There is hardly a priest in the archdiocese now that I personally know. There is not a teacher nor a sister living now that I knew then. Mother Chantal I believe to be the last. And the dear good Christian Brothers that were so attentive to my children, with Brother Arnold at their head, all gone the way of all flesh! There were laymen and women that I have missed for many a day. Lawrence Bolster, who had charge of the water works, was the first to drop out after I left. He had been as kind to me as a brother. Mrs. Patrick Lee, the mother of Mr. Thomas Lee, who had always treated me like a son, and her son, William Lee, father of the young men now to the front; John Shea, the good and generous patriarch of those bygone days; Thomas Lalor, the genial and witty son of the dear old sod, who often set the table in a roar; merry Jerry Merrick, who loved a joke as he loved a friend; James Hallinan, the convivial limb of the law, who was fond of the classics; blurring Pat Hughes, who was always a man of business; Captain John Elmley, who was wont to patronize me with kind words and encouragement; Denis Kelly Feehan, who gave me an opportunity in life; William J. McDonnell, who used to give me good advice; dear old Joseph Boudidier, who prayed for me; James Stock, whom I once brought out for member of Parliament for East Toronto against James Beatty; Charles Robertson, the profound business man; Maurice Scollard, who used to take snuff with the father of George Brown and discuss religion with him; Patrick Boyle, who was mine and everybody's friend; Hon. Frank Smith, who did me the best financial turn I have ever done me in my life; Thomas Wilson, the shrewd business man, his partner, that I went to school with in Hamilton; Charles Doherty, the whole-souled business man. Neither will space nor memory permit me to mention them all—good people, kind people, that I never should have abandoned.

Mr. Taylor, the lately deceased friend, I knew since he first reached Toronto and secured a position in the Normal School. A gentleman, a scholar, a kind, good soul was he. When I published a literary paper in Toronto in 1860, he was one of my contributors. He had his troubles like us all, but he bore them like a Christian.

And now Mother Chantal! I met her before she had taken up her voca-

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The Catholic Citizen, published by Hayes Bros. and edited by Michael Hayes, opposed him and we bought out the Citizen, changed it into the Canadian Freeman and put James G. Moylan in charge of it; but Moylan fell a prey ere long to the blandishments of the Premier, John A. Macdonald, and his party. But such an avalanche of "returned" newspapers no editor ever saw before.

Then came the Kleists with their street railroad interests, Sir Frank Smith, with his wholesale grocery business, "Tom" Wilson, his partner, Peter Small, the Ryans and others; I was not of it. There is a chasm of 33 years between my past and my present positions that others will have to fill in.

Let me retrograde that I may pick up my dropped lines. How many noble people, how many dear old Toronto friends (the best I ever had) have I known to drop by the wayside, since in a whim or a disappointment, I left my dear old Toronto home, where my friendships were formed and affections clustered! What a procession to the grave! Listen!

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Very sincerely yours,
WILLIAM HALLEY,
"Old-Timer."

tion. In the dear, distant long ago we used to have fairs and concerts in St. Lawrence Hall for some of our charities and our aristocratic ladies used to act as patrons. It was not infrequent that there were dances at some of those fairs or bazaars. What I want to say is that I first saw Mother Chantal when she was the cynosure of all eyes at one of these functions, and that I never saw a finer form nor a more graceful personage figure on the floor of a ball-room than hers. A very short time after I was surprised to learn that she had given up the world and entered the House of Providence, then shortly before erected.

I have certainly seen the changes conditions and watched the many mutations in Ontario's beautiful capital. It was not much of a city when I first saw it, but now it excites admiration and gladdens the heart and eyes of all visitors.

At the beginning of this article I stated that I could count the people of the Catholic community in Toronto that were prominent or in business when I left there 33 years ago, that are now left to link the old era with the new. So far as I am able to distinguish at this distance, they are as follows:

Mr. Eugene O'Keefe, brewer; Matthew O'Connor, painter and decorator; Nicholas Rooney, cloth merchant; Mr. Cosgrove, brewer; Mr. P. Burns, coal merchant; Mr. Mallon, butcher; Mr. Kelly, butcher; Mr. Thomas Lee, bookkeeper for Mr. O'Connor; Mr. J. Landy, attorney; Mr. William Dineen, fur merchant; Mr. Matthew Teely, Richmond Hill, the patriarch of them all. There are three or four others that I know of whose names memory does not enable me to muster. They have my congratulations and well wishes. I salute them all.

Very sincerely yours,
WILLIAM HALLEY,
"Old-Timer."

Irish Land Commission Report

The work of rent-fixing by the State in Ireland, according to the recent report of the Irish Land Commission still goes gaily on. Last year (1902) 13,616 fair rents were fixed altogether, including 3,594 for first statutory terms and 10,022 for second statutory terms. Since the passing of the Act of 1881, 343,370 first term rents and 90,839 second term rents have been considered and adjudicated upon by the courts. The total rental dealt with on first term applications was £6,955,033 and the aggregate judicial rent fixed in respect thereof was £5,503,536. With respect to second term applications the total rental was £1,512,383 and the aggregate judicial rent fixed in respect of same was £1,191,904. That is to say, the result of the working of the land Acts over the entire country was an average reduction of 30.8 per cent. in respect of first term applications and an average reduction of 31.1 per cent. in respect of second term applications.—Law Times, of Sept. 5, 1903.

St. Michael's Sanctuary Society

The annual election of St. Michael's Sanctuary Society took place on Saturday, and resulted in the following members being elected: President, E. Ewing; Vice-President, G. O'Leary; Secretary-Treasurer, W. Crow; Recording Secretary, M. O'Neill; Librarian, F. Ungar; Assistant Librarian, E. McMillan; Sacristan, N. McGrath; Assistant Sacristan, W. Hutchinson.

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C. M. B. A.

Editor Catholic Register:

Sir—Considerable has been written of late by different members of the Association, all complaining about the manner in which the C. M. B. A. is being governed and to my mind the greater proof is needed that the charges are well founded than the fact that not one of the Grand Officers has come forward to defend their action. It is now a year since the Grand Trustees met in St. John and passed a resolution that a chartered accountant proceed to make an audit of the books of the Association. The late Grand Secretary, S. R. Brown, who was not present at the meeting when this resolution was passed, urged that the audit be delayed until the end of the year when the annual audit would be made by the Finance Committee at which date the chartered accountant could audit the books with them. For some reason the request was complied with, but I am not aware that the joint audit was carried out. If it was I have no recollection of having seen any reference to it in the Canadian. The September copy of The Canadian contains an item, a copy of which appears in your issue of the 17th, which at last gives the membership a fragment of information. The audit has been made by Mr. Edwards, but the report of his investigation is to be withheld until the August convention of next year. Why next year? Why have the Grand Officers presumed to withhold information from the membership which should have been furnished months ago?

It was always the custom to publish in The Canadian the report of the Audit by the Grand Finance Committee soon as their work was done. Why was this rule departed from this year? Any information of an authentic nature no matter how serious it may be, could not be as bad for the Association as this sickly silence of the Grand Officers, when there are so many rumors afloat. Has the Grand President dismissed the Grand Finance Committee? This dear old committee that each year brought in its stereotyped report "that the finances of the Association were all properly accounted for." When he has not the courage to come out boldly and declare what is the true state of affairs it is not to be expected he would attempt to depose this valuable (?) committee of its qualifications for attending conventions.

And what have the Grand Trustees to say on the matter? Are they not also equally guilty with the President in allowing the Association to be dragged down to its present state of decay? Surely the membership is exhibiting a wonderful amount of patience but the day of retribution will overtake them, when they will, one and all be swept from office by an indignant convention. The Association has sunk to the level of municipal politics when it tolerates such engineering as went on in the election of the successors of the late Grand Secretary. Months before his death it was rumored in the inner circles that everything had been arranged whereby Bro. Behan, one of the Grand Trustees, was to succeed Bro. Brown, but on account of the non-attendance at the Trustee meeting of some of the Trustees Bro. Murphy, of Cauga, was appointed. Then what happened? A vacancy occurred in the judicial offices of Haldimand, and Bro. Murphy was suddenly taken sick. He required rest, he could not enter upon his duties, his Grand Secretary for the present, Bro. Murphy recovered his health about the time he was appointed County Crown Attorney of Haldimand. He then resigned his office of Grand Secretary of the C. M. B. A., after nominally holding the position for some months. What is to be thought of a Board of Trustees that would tolerate such a state of affairs? Bro. Behan's time had now come and he got the coveted office. What qualifications does he possess? What experience has he had as an accountant? What can he do towards editing a paper? The Grand Secretary is the paid officer of the Association and is the one who should attend to the publication of the paper, not the Grand President, whose position is honorary. I hold that the Grand Secretary should remain at his office and attend to the business of the Association, where he will find plenty to do and leave the outside work for others. There are many other things that should be discussed by the membership, but the above will suffice for the present. A MEMBER.

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Barrie Correspondence

Mr. and Mrs. L. V. McBrady and family, who have been spending the summer months here, returned to their home in Toronto last week. Their many friends in Barrie wished they could have remained longer and hope they will select Barrie as their summer resort on future occasions.

Knights of Columbus

New Council Formed in Kingston

On the 7th inst., (Labor Day), a new Council of the Order of Knights of Columbus was formed in Kingston, and the following is condensed from the report of the proceedings in last week's Canadian Freeman, published in that city:

Sunday and Monday were indeed very busy days in Kingston among the members of the Knights of Columbus, as it was made the occasion of the formation of a Council of the above Order in this city. There were four hundred visiting Knights from the following Councils: Oswego, Watertown, Ogdensburg, Medina, Geneva, Clayton, Utica, Syracuse, Rochester, Auburn, Buffalo, Carthage, Niagara Falls and Fulton, N. Y., and from Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, Sherbrooke and Peterborough, among whom we noticed many representative gentlemen of the Catholic faith. Among the clergy we noticed a very large number from different parts of the United States and Canada, thus showing the great interest the Church is taking in this popular Catholic organization. The visiting Knights met early on Monday morning in front of the City Hall and after forming in line marched in procession to St. Mary's Cathedral, where they attended Pontifical High Mass, which was celebrated by His Grace the Archbishop, Rev. Father Davis, of Perth, as deacon, and Rev. Dr. Salmon, as sub-deacon, the seats in the Sanctuary being taken up by visiting priests from all parts of Canada and the United States, who all belonged to the Knights of Columbus.

The sermon was preached by Rev. M. F. Fallon, D.D., of Buffalo. Father Fallon, before concluding his magnificent sermon, paid a beautiful tribute to the work performed by the Knights of Columbus and read extracts of reports of what they had accomplished for the large congregation of New York and other large centres in the United States. He also spoke in grateful terms of our beloved Archbishop, and returned to His Grace, on behalf of the Knights of Columbus, their most heartfelt thanks for the great encouragement and personal interest he had taken in the formation of a Council in the good old city of Kingston. The sermon was a masterpiece of oratory in every particular, being listened to with rapt attention by the large congregation. Many of the American Knights had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Fallon for the first time and felt much elated over the fact that they belonged to such an able and eloquent advocate as he is. As for his old Ottawa friends, who came to Kingston to take part in the work of conferring degrees, they were glad to hear the voice of their former pastor, and especially in his advocacy of a society which they take such an especial interest in.

After Mass the procession re-formed and marched back to the City Hall, where the work of conferring degrees took place. The first degree was conferred at 11 a.m., by Grand Knight M. J. Gorman, Chancellor Hon. F. R. Latchford and Deputy Grand Knight E. J. Daly, of Ottawa Council. At three o'clock the second degree was given by Grand Knight R. J. Donoghue, of Ogdensburg, assisted by J. L. Whelan, of Rochester, and Dr. Buckley, of Prescott. At 8 o'clock in the evening the third degree was exemplified by J. P. Dunne, of Ottawa, State Deputy for Canada, assisted by Captain C. R. Braenes, of Rochester, and Warden McCracken, of Montreal.

Trying to Cure Leprosy

Religious Women Have No Fear. But Workmen are Terror-Stricken

New Orleans, Sept. 19.—Dr. Quintan Kohnke, president of the New Orleans Board of Health, Dr. Isadore Dyer, president of the Louisiana Leper Board, and the Rev. Albert Brevor, S. J., have just returned from a visit to the Louisiana Leper Home at Indian Camp Plantation. Their visit has shown an encouraging condition of affairs there, and a possibility of curing the disease and of exterminating it in Louisiana, where it has prevailed for nearly a century. The only difficulty in the way is the popular fear of the disease, which militates not only against the unfortunate lepers, but also against the authorities in their efforts to eradicate the disease.

It was eradicated in Louisiana by the Spanish Government more than a hundred years ago, but revived later along the lower Lafourche, in consequence of the smuggling slave trade that centred about Lafitte's pirate stronghold. Nothing of any moment was done to fight the plague until a few years ago, when under the pressure of public opinion the State decided to take energetic steps to get rid of leprosy.

The plan proposed was thoroughly practical and promising. Provision was made for the erection of a leper's home, and laws were passed authorizing the Sheriffs and District Judges to commit all lepers to the home, thus to segregate them and, without any hardship to the lepers, prevent an extension of the disease. A great deal has been accomplished in this line; but complete success has been prevented by the great popular dread of the disease.

The daughters of St. Vincent de Paul volunteered to do the nursing. There was no difficulty in securing volunteers. Some of them came from Boston and New York to accept places which practically closed the world to them.

In all these respects, Drs. Kohnke and Dyer and Father Brevor found a great improvement in the home. The medical attendance and nursing here, it was found, improved the condition of the lepers, holding out the encouragement that the disease would yield to treatment and its advance could be stayed even if it could not be cured. Indeed the improvement noted in some of the patients encouraged the doctors to believe that a cure was possible in the milder cases.

But here the favorable conditions ended. The visitors found the buildings in a deplorable condition, the roofs leaking, and many of them open to the winds, the water supply insufficient and the lepers subjected to many inconveniences and annoyances which, the visitors believe, prevent their improvement or cure.

The trouble is due to the fact that it is impossible to get workmen to go within the leper limits or to make improvements in the buildings occupied by them. Workmen fear that the mere handling of the lumber may transfer the disease to them. Hence the buildings occupied by the lepers go rapidly to decay.

The lepers themselves are too feeble to do any work. For similar reasons there is no sufficient water supply. As a consequence the inmates of the home suffer from exposure to the weather, which, Dr. Kohnke believes, seriously interferes with any chance of their cure.

GOES TO MORRISBURG.

Kingston, Sept. 18.—Rev. Father McCarthy, of Frankford, has been appointed parish priest at Morrisburg. He will leave for his new charge in about two weeks.

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