

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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WEDNESDAY.....AUGUST 4, 1897

OUR PROSPECTS.

Our best thanks are due the St. Patrick's League of United Societies, for the active steps they are taking to secure not only the permanency, but the widely increased usefulness of THE TRUE WITNESS. It is needless to again point out the absolute necessity of an independent paper to set forth the views of the English speaking Catholics totally free of party trammels. Again and again our zealous Clergy have spoken of the serious blow to the vitality of our different parishes by the loss of a Catholic organ published in the English language must necessarily be. It is needless to go over these things any more. The proper spirit is now being manifested by our societies, and if the plan adopted be faithfully and zealously carried out we shall be able not only to continue this paper, at the nominal price at which it is now furnished to our subscribers, but be in a position to double our present size and give to our readers the most varied correspondence, not only from the centre of Catholicity—Rome itself—and from Ireland, but from the most interesting quarters on the continent. We desire to publish a paper such as the English speaking Catholics of Montreal are entitled to. There are many other places in Canada where Irish Catholics are congregated in goodly numbers, but our city is the home of the largest number as well as of the most wealthy and prosperous members of our race and creed. If our people are true to their own interests, with a very small sacrifice on the part of those best able to do the good work, we shall realize our most cherished hopes. The history of a large section of any community is worthy of preservation; altogether apart from every other consideration, a good Catholic paper is the keeper of the records of its constituency. Secular journals cannot be expected to follow up closely and methodically the different events which are of vital importance to the Catholic section. Such is the work of a newspaper specially devoted to the chronicling of these events. Dean Harris, in his admirable book recently published on the Catholic Church in the Niagara Peninsula, makes allusion in the preface to his desire in printing his book to rescue from oblivion, if not from destruction, the valuable records, traditions and manuscripts touching the Catholic history of the Niagara Peninsula, and points out how essential it is that a true record of all that is interesting should be preserved. Now, the columns of THE TRUE WITNESS for the past forty-six years have chronicled the doings of our people, and some day will enable the historian of our race to print in indelible characters the struggles, trials and triumphs of our people in this city and province and for a wide circle around it. In the Souvenir volume published by Mr. Justice Curran, of the Jubilee of Rev. Fathers Dowd and Toupin, we have, it is true, a brief sketch of the progress of our people, and that was followed up and amplified by a talented writer in our own Jubilee number of last St. Patrick's day, yet these are but a preface to what shall yet be written, and the columns of THE TRUE WITNESS, from the days of George Clerk to the present, hour, are veritable mines, rich in all that can make an exiled people proud of their progress in a land far from the homes of their fathers. It is the intention of the present management to do things, if not better than in the past, at all events in accord with the necessities of the times. Events just as full of import are taking place to day as in the days gone by. The Chronicle is just as necessary now as in the past, and unless it be equal to its mission, justice cannot and will not be done to the requirements of the situation. Once more a systematic effort is being made, and we bespeak for those

who have generously taken the work in hand a response worthy of the cause we represent to the best of our humble ability.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE.

There can be more striking proof of the wave of irreligion which is sweeping over the United States at the present moment than that furnished by a body known as "The Federation of Churches and Christian Workers," a Protestant organization of New York City, whose special mission it is to gather statistics in connection with the present annual attendance in the denominational churches. This particular report deals with what is known as the Nineteenth Assembly district of New York. The district, which is one of the most populous in the city, is located on the west side from about sixtieth to Seventieth street. The canvassers found that there are in the region 3988 fathers, of whom 1365 belong to no church. This makes sixty-five in a hundred of the fathers church members. The proportions among other members of the family are: Mothers who are church members, sixty-nine in a hundred; sons, twenty-three in a hundred; daughters, twenty-four in a hundred. Eighty-three fathers, eighty-six mothers, forty-three sons, and forty-six daughters in every one hundred attend church.

The statistician of the Federation announces that the Irish, which is almost the same as saying the Catholics, go to church in largest proportion, and the German and colored people the smallest. Americans and English have a low average. The number of American boys and girls who are church members is smaller than any other nationality except the colored people. Out of 4800 families in the district 1353 have no church connection at all. In New York's population, Germans are the leading foreign nationality; Irish next, and while only five per cent. of the Irish families in the district are not church members, fifty per cent. of the German families have no communicants. There are 3318 children three to twenty-one years of age out of Sunday-schools. Of these 1761 are boys and 155 girls. The 3,447 church families in the district belong to nineteen Christian denominations, counting one Chinaman who proclaims allegiance to Buddha. The Catholics have seventy-four per cent of the church families. Of the remainder the Baptists lead, next the Methodists, and then the Episcopalians.

There is food for reflection in this showing. One lesson to the Protestants is that they are beginning to discover that multiplicity of sects is by no means a source of strength. The Agent of the Federation who is responsible for the report confesses that much when he says: "The block, the district and the city cannot be cared for without a cooperative policy among the many denominations represented in these nationalities. If there are eighteen denominations among Americans and Germans in each one of ten blocks, and there are eighty families out of all churches in almost every one of these blocks, there will be an enormous waste if any one denomination attempts to reach all, or if all denominations try to reach them. Without a cooperative policy, no matter how many new Protestant churches be founded in the district, it will be impossible to reach the population effectively. This becomes apparent from a study of the denominational partition of the Americans and Germans, and from a study of the church homes claimed by the people."

The fact that the number of American children are less than those of any other nationality, except the negroes attending church, does not speak well for the efforts of the much lauded Sunday school.

These irreligious boys and girls are to recruit the rapidly increasing army of infidels in the United States.

PRACTICAL POLITICS.

Practical politics have long been a vexed question. In fact it has, under one guise or another, been coeval with the world's existence; but, as the ages rolled one into the other, it has become, from a matter of individual effort, one which the great men of the nations of the earth dignified as a science. "Practical Politics" has been studied just as much in the wigwag of the Indian and the cave of pre-historic man as in the lordly cabinets of Europe. The defenceless savage who goes down before the British bayonet is just as much a student of this science as the lordly occupant of a cabinet office in the gilded palaces of Europe,—the only difference between the two being that they argue from different hypothesis. Taking the question from a Canadian, or, it might be termed, an American standpoint, it might well be said that while the work of ages has made practical politics a science, degenerate man, on this continent at least, has brought it down to the level of a trade. Unfortunately the trend of politics in Canada creates this state of affairs. People, and young men more particularly, are be-

ginning to take an interest in public affairs for a living. The Memphis Journal has the following to say on this subject.

The saddest sight we know is to see young men, bright and talented, who, with study and perseverance, would stand at the head of their profession or their business, sacrifice all their prospects in life for immediate advancement to some trumpery job. To serve one's country is a legitimate ambition. To aspire after high office is the privilege of a patriot. But no one who begins by trying to make a living out of petty places ever comes to anything great. It seems to be a common sense proposition that a man should qualify himself by attending to his own business, before attending to the business of other people. When a man has in his trade, his profession, his shop, acquired a competency, then it will be time enough to sacrifice himself on the altar of patriotism. The man who enters politics as a business is like the man who enters hell. He leaves hope behind.

The question of armor plate for vessels of war is puzzling our neighbors across the line. Apart from the fact that it is the greatest item of expense in building these huge instruments of destruction, some United States naval experts believe that the future has some less cumbersome method for protecting ships in battle than the present one and that the time is not far distant when this will be evolved. It has been suggested also that the Washington authorities establish a manufactory of armor plate themselves, but this has roused the opposition of the great steel companies and those politicians of an economical turn of mind. President McKinley has appointed Commodore Howell of the League Island Navy Yard and Capt. McCormick of the Norfolk Navy Yard to report upon the whole subject.

The American is nothing if he is not enterprising. The latest scheme comes from Indianapolis, where twenty business men have formed a stock company, each contributing \$1,000, and will select an equal number of enterprising young men for the Klondyke region, the contract running five years, and the entire forty to share equally all gold mined. An insurance of \$1,000 will be placed upon each man going there, and in case of death this insurance money will be added to the pool. A general manager will be sent along. The company calculates that a sufficient number will die out of which the remainder can reimburse themselves for the insurance money, whether any gold is found or not.

The Pacific Cable scheme is no more before the Canadian public. It is a question whether the scheme would really benefit Canada to a degree commensurate with the proposed outlay. With all the cable connection she can possibly require with the Old World, the fact forces itself on one whether this new cable should have been allowed to enter into the public mind at all. So far as we can see Australia and not Canada would reap the benefit. Of course this is a selfish view of the subject, but it raises the point whether under such circumstances Australia and not Canada should not have been the proper colony to force the fighting.

LONDON is in the throes of one of the largest strikes in the history of English manufacture. The struggle is not alone confined to the metropolis but is spread all over the kingdom. It embraces the National Federation of Shipbuilders and Engineering Trades, and it is estimated that fully eighteen thousand men are idle. However, the men are gaining ground, the London firms in whose support the masters forced the lockout yielding one by one to the demands of their men. The men employed in the manufacture of bicycles are the latest accession of strength to the strikers.

The path to the Klondyke, if all stories are correct, is much like the path to glory, beset by dangers and death. The widow of Lieut. Schwatka, the arctic explorer, in an interview concerning the Klondyke gold region, which country she has repeatedly visited with her husband, declared that the Government should stop the tide of immigrants pouring into the gold fields in Alaska. She says that the mountain passes are strewn with the skeletons of unfortunate miners who perished from either cold, heat, malaria, or starvation, while trying to reach the golden region.

Russia is slowly getting into line with the nations. In consequence of the recent St. Petersburg strikes, a new labor law comes into force on January 1st, 1898. The working day is fixed at a maximum of eleven and a half hours; for Saturdays and the days preceding holidays there is to be no work. Workmen who are not Christians will not be compelled to work on the days held sacred by their sects. For night work eight hours will constitute a day's work.

The action of the City Council last week in acknowledging the right of promotion in the civic service is one which should be maintained under all circum-

stances where it is possible to apply it. It is but poor encouragement to the honest official to toil year after year and to see, when his reward is in sight, a stranger railroaded over his head because he has aldermanic influence at his back.

The Ladies' Catholic Benevolent Association held its annual convention in Chicago last week. It was a most successful gathering, 285 delegates from all parts of the country being present. Several salaries were increased,—that of president from \$500 to \$1,000; that of recorder from \$1,500 to \$1,800; and that of treasurer from \$300 to \$600. And \$1,000 was appropriated to purchase a marble statue of the late Bishop Ryan, the first supreme spiritual adviser of the Association, to be erected in the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament on Delaware avenue, in Buffalo, N. Y. It is understood that the statue has already been executed by an Italian artist. Mrs. E. B. McGowan, Buffalo, N. Y., was elected President, Mrs. Mary Flanagan, Syracuse, N. Y., supreme First President, Mrs. Minnie P. Graham, Chicago, supreme Second Vice-President, Mrs. J. A. Royer, Erie, Pa., Supreme Recorder, Mrs. Mary E. McGuirk, Brooklyn, N. Y. supreme Treasurer, Mrs. Maria Quion Newark, N.J., supreme Marshal, Mrs. Elizabeth Gardner, Pittsburg, supreme Guard, and for Trustees, the following were chosen: Miss Julia A. Ward, of Chicago; Miss Kate Gaughran, of Cleveland, Ohio; Miss Maria Gallagher, of Port Jarvis, N. Y., and Miss Alice Blainey, of Buffalo. The election of Auditors resulted as follows: Mrs. Felice Girardot, Detroit, four years; Mrs. Teresa Popp, Pittsburg, two years; Mrs. Catherine Dowling, Rochester, two years. Ashburg Park, N. J., was chosen as the next meeting place in 1899.

ELSEWHERE we refer to the action of St. Patrick's League in suggesting a plan to extend the usefulness of THE TRUE WITNESS. Division No. 3 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is the first to put it into practical operation. Too much credit cannot be given to this organization for inaugurating a system which, if carried out throughout all the Divisions of the Hibernians and kindred societies, must result in good to the newspaper, and in extending its sphere of usefulness. The Irish Catholics of Quebec hold too important a position in the Province not to have an organ which will put forth their views and conserve their interests. But it remains with themselves to have one worthy of the cause. St. Patrick's League has pointed out the way.

A boy in Hoboken, N.J., has just been shocked to death while trying to climb an iron trolley pole because of defective insulation. It would be well if the city of Montreal were to apply periodical tests to the poles on our public streets, for what has occurred in Hoboken might occur here at any moment.

It is a matter of congratulation to know that the trend of trade has at last taken an upward movement not only in Montreal but all over Canada. The crop outlook is good and wholesalers in interviews report sales good and payments fair.

Every day we have new evidence of the ravages made by intemperance. Now it is in the highest quarters in England. Vanity Fair exclaims: "The women are as bad as the men." During the London season things went from bad to worse, until an explanation is being sought for what can no longer be covered by the mantle of charity. A high authority says: "Probably the length of the London season is chiefly responsible for the evil. From the beginning of May until the end of July the season is one stretch of fatigue. Long before the first six weeks are over pleasure has become nothing but pain. The women drag themselves wearily from house to house, and only manage to do this by the aid of incessant stimulants."

The Minneapolis Times rises to remark:—

The trade of the United States with Canada is larger than with any other of the States of the American continent. It amounts to about \$100,000,000 a year, the Canadians buying of us nearly as much as we buy of them. It is pleasant to note that while Congress is busily engaged in devising measures for the obstruction of trade the Liberal party now in control of the Canadian Government has no intention of imitating our example.

The Progressive Democratic League is pressing for the ownership and operation of all municipal franchisees. Says a prominent member of the League of New York:—

"The city owns the franchises now. We shall insist, on the lines of the Chicago platform, that it shall operate them. We are going ahead with our conferences with the other clubs and are organizing thoroughly everywhere, so that we will be in a position, if Tammany Hall does not reaffirm the Chicago platform and does not adopt herself a plank for the operation of franchisees, to perfect our organization in every district, and to constitute ourselves the regular Democratic party of the city of New York."

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

The Religious Enthusiasm of Italian Catholics.

The Alumni of Ottawa University Hold a Successful Dinner—The News of the Churches.

NEW YORK August 1.—The will of the Rev. Father James Peron, who died in this city Jan. 24, 1890, was filed for probate yesterday in the Surrogate's office. The deceased in the opening paragraph of the will says: "If thou wilt be perfect go sell what thou hast give it to the poor, and thou shalt inherit treasure in heaven." Consequently the testator says he has disposed of all the fortune which God had given him with the exception of some debts due him. In conclusion the deceased says: "I beg of my family not to make any inquiry about this fortune of mine nor the use I made of it. I myself have disposed of it in good and charitable works, relieving the poor, and building and adorning temples consecrated to the worship of God and the support of Christian missions among the infidels."

The debts which the deceased speaks of as due him according to the petition amount to only \$600, which is bequeathed to the Rev. Father S. H. Fisher of Georgetown College, Maryland; the Rev. William Pardow of St. Francis Xavier's College, this city, and the Rev. T. T. Campbell, of St. John's College, Fordham, who is the petitioner for the probate of the will.

DEVOTED TO THE MADONNA.

The priests attached to the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in East One Hundred and Fifteenth Street, have counted the offerings of money and jewellery which they had received on Friday of last week, and found that the value altogether was fully \$30,000. The Madonna's feast day falls on July 16, and it is always a day of great religious fervor among the members of the church's congregation, most of whom are Italians. From the earliest streak of dawn on Friday and until nearly midnight the church was crowded with men, women and children, whose religious fervor seemed to know no bounds. In the basement stood the image of the Madonna, which is fully six feet high. All those who entered carried candles and most of them brought gifts of money which they handed to the priests as they reached the altar. As the excitement grew the worshippers commenced denuding themselves of jewellery, which they placed upon the shrine. Women took off their earrings, men their rings and watches. One Italian society, which arrived headed by a brass band, carried a banner five feet long by two and one-half feet wide and made entirely of greenbacks. There were many tens and twenties, while ones and twos were there in quantities. In the center of this banner was a picture of the Virgin, while it was studied here and there with rings, watches, breastpins and lockets. Many of the men and women in procession walked barefooted as a self-imposed penance. This banner was placed on the altar with the other offerings.

WANT LOCAL IRON WORK.

The mechanics of the building trades of the city have for some time been agitating against the giving of contracts for building material to out-of-town firms, and they have had the support of many builders and others. There have been many complaints against the iron work used in some of the large buildings when made by out-of-town firms. It has been declared that much of it was defective, and that the only reason that it was used was that it was cheaper than the same material manufactured in this city. The iron-moulders have now issued a circular letter to all architects asking them to use their influence hereafter to have the iron work made by local firms used. The building industry is lively in the metropolis just now. It was reported to the Board of Delegates yesterday that 400 houses were being built in the district bounded by One-hundred-and-tenth and One hundred and twenty-second streets and Fifth and Sixth avenues.

THE BELLS OF THE CATHEDRAL.

The work on the tower of St. Patrick's Cathedral, preparatory to the hanging of the new bells, will shortly be completed. The consecration ceremony will be performed by Archbishop Corrigan, on Aug. 15, when a large attendance of priests and laymen will take part in the imposing function. Invitations have been sent out to leading ecclesiastics, both of the States and Canada. The bells are nineteen in number and vary in weight from 7,000 to 300 pounds. The largest is the gift of Mr. Daly of Brooklyn, father of the Rev. William Daly, the young assistant of the Cathedral. French workmen have been engaged to hang the bells. It is said that the new chimes will be heard at least twenty blocks away.

OTTAWA ALUMNI DINNER.

The alumni of the University of Ottawa, Canada, who reside in New York and vicinity, held a reunion and dinner at the Hotel Marlborough, on the evening of the 29th of July, in honor of the four members of the faculty who have been in the city for several days assisting Rev. Father Tetreau at the novena of St. Anne, in the Roman Catholic Church of St. Jean Baptiste, namely, Rev. M. F. Fallon, O. M. I., vice-rector of the University; Rev. E. A. Constantineau, O. M. I., secretary of the university; Rev. W. Patton, O. M. I., professor of philosophy in the University, and Rev. A. Gauvreau, professor of chemistry in the University. About fifty members of the alumni were present and a permanent organization was effected. Nearly a hundred alumni of the University reside in New York and vicinity. The decorations were in garnet and gray, the University colors. Rev. Father Fallon presided and the toasts were quite informal. Among those present were the following named: Rev. J. Clark, of Orange Valley, N.J.,

Rev. T. Donovan, of Morristown, N.J.; Rev. J. Breheyn, of St. Jerome's Church; Rev. F. Crane, of Elmhurst, N.J.; Rev. Wm. Mulcahey, of St. Lucy's Church; Rev. Wm. A. Herckenrath, Assistant City Civil Engineer of New York city; Louis C. Herckenrath, J. Cushing, C. Cushing G. Murphy, J. Murphy, J. McTiernan, Dr. Charles Mitchell, William Pound, T. Wall, W. Wall, A. Bunner, E. Short, Dr. George Smith, Dr. William J. Spellman, Charles Hays, C. O. O'Hara, L. Palladreau, Dr. R. Ivers, T. Clancy, E. Walsh, George Wallace, John Collins, Charles Collins, William Collins, Jules De Beauvie, J. Green, J. F. Fitzpatrick, E. Donagan, F. Clark, M. Espinal and J. J. Russell.

After the toasts had been concluded, the Rev. Father Fallon suggested the formation of a permanent Alumni Association for the New York district. The suggestion met with enthusiastic approval and the election of officers resulted as follows:—President, W. A. Herckenrath, M. A., C. E., New York; 1st Vice-President, Rev. Owen Clarke, South Orange, N. J.; 2nd Vice President, Rev. C. J. Gibney, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Secretary, Mr. George Murphy, New York. It was decided to hold an annual reunion in New York.

THREE NEW CHURCHES.

The Roman Catholics of Tremont have bought several lots at Bathgate Avenue and One Hundred and Seventy-eighth Street for the erection of a new church, which is to be dedicated to St. Joseph. The plans and specifications are not ready, but it is said that the new edifice will cost about \$30,000, of which a good portion is already in hand. A bazaar will shortly be given in aid of the cause.

So rapid has been the increase of the Catholic population of Unionport that the little Church of the Holy Family has been found altogether inadequate, and steps have been taken to build a more commodious edifice. Twenty city lots have been purchased, and the plans will soon be drawn. The new church will, it is said, cost about \$20,000, and of this sum about \$5,000 has been secured.

The new church of Our Lady of Lourdes, on Broadway, near Aberdeen Street, Brooklyn, is rapidly nearing completion, and will probably be ready for occupancy next month. The church is in charge of the French Order of the Fathers of Mercy. The pastor of the church is the Rev. Father Porcile, who conducted several pilgrimages to the grotto at the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, in France, bringing back with him several relics. The new church fronts on Aberdeen Street and extends to the building line on St. Francis de Sales Place. It is about 200 feet deep. The frontage is 38 feet, increasing in the transept to the width of 104 feet. The material used on the outside walls is brick of an old gold color, with terracotta trimmings. Over the main entrance is a fine bas relief in stone representing the Fathers of Mercy motto—the legend of the Prodigal Son.

BUSINESS IS BOOMING.

The unexpectedly early fall demand for staple merchandise which Bradstreet's announced last week has increased, and, although not conspicuous at some of the larger eastern cities which it is approaching, it is notably so at points in the Mississippi and Missouri river valleys and in the larger wheat growing States. A special investigation by Bradstreet's this week shows that increased purchases by country merchants in the region specified, based on the prospectively large wheat crop at home, in the face of short wheat crops abroad, have increased business with Western jobbers from 10 to 15 per cent, compared with fall trade at a like period last year. Exports of wheat (wheat flour included as wheat) from both coasts of the United States and from Montreal this week amount to 2,343,021 bushels, compared with 1,978,000 bushels last week, 2,648,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 1,460,000 bushels two years ago, 2,977,000 bushels three years ago, and as contrasted with 5,622,000 bushels in the corresponding week of 1893.

MORE TAILORS ON STRIKE.

The Knee Pants Makers' Union, which was scheduled to strike when the Brotherhood of Tailors and Children's Jacket Makers' Union went on strike, but held back at that time, went on strike on Friday morning. The strike affects 2300 knee pants makers in New York, Brooklyn and Brownsville, 500 of whom are women. The Pants Makers' Union, another organization which was to strike late in the spring, but held back for warmer weather, is expected to strike this week.

AN ACTRESS GONE CRAZY.

Marie Simonie, a singer, who came here from her home in Cedar Rapids, Ia., a month ago to seek an engagement with the Bostonians, is a patient at the insane pavilion in Bellevue Hospital. She is 26 years old, and good looking. On the train from Chicago she became acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. John Bishop of that city, and upon her arrival here she took rooms in the same boarding house as the Bishops, at 247 West Twenty-fourth street. Miss Simonie had a letter of introduction to Elliot F. Danforth, ex-State Treasurer, from Dr. Switzer of Cedar Rapids, and he took a personal interest in her. It was said that she was disappointed in her plans to secure an engagement with the Bostonians, and this may have served to upset her mind. She is a deep student of Christian science and theology, and last week she began to talk in a strange manner about the Deity and various mythological personages. There was a young man named Van Deeghe in the boarding house, and on Saturday Miss Simonie got the hallucination that she had been married to him by God Himself. Mr. Van Deeghe and Mrs. Bishop then took her to the Bellevue insane pavilion. She made no protest whatever, and when she was there to the pavilion she said she was there to cure all the insane women. She imagines she is the Blessed Virgin, and declares that she is purely personified. She sings when the doctors or nurses come near her, and renders airs from grand operas.