

mentary principles of justice, even human, the benefit of the doubt should have been given to him—at least until the whole matter was cleared up. But not so with the organ that saw a chance of making political capital out of a sensational editorial. The fact of the matter is that His Grace could not have known aught about a letter that he had never seen nor heard of, and about which he had never been consulted. Consequently, Le Canada acted in a most un-Christian, not to say anti-Catholic manner in attempting to drag the name of a dignitary of the Church into the public arena and to bespatter him with the ink of calumny from the pen of selfishness.

The duty of that publication, under the circumstances, would be to apologize to His Grace for the careless way in which his name was made use of and the ungenerous suspicion that was cast upon his integrity. It is time that Catholic writers should learn that they are responsible for what they publish. They are answerable to God as well as to society for the wrongs that their thoughtlessness or their intentionally unjust statements may cause.

We have no more to say upon the subject; but we do sincerely hope that the day will soon dawn when a more truly Catholic spirit will enter into the writers of a certain section of our Catholic press. We have enough to combat in the enemies of our faith, in that infidelity that blasts and that indifferentism that corrupts, without having to struggle with each other, without having to make an exhibition of ourselves and our misunderstandings in the eyes of the world. We must respect our clergy and our hierarchy if we desire that others should respect us. The members of that hierarchy cannot defend themselves against public attacks any more than a crowned head or prince of the state can enter into a controversy with his subjects. It is, therefore, cowardly to fire arrows at personages who are not in a position to shield themselves. And it is alien to the spirit of Catholicity to do anything that is cowardly.

A PROTHONOTARYSHIP VACANT.

By the death of the late Mr. Alfred Driscoll, of Aylmer, the position of Prothonotary for the immense judicial district of Ottawa becomes vacant. The appointment is one that will soon have to be made, and as a prominent Q.C., an Irish Catholic of that district is seeking the appointment. We deem it proper to point out to the Government the claim which he has.

In the first place every office connected with the courts in that district is held by a French Canadian. The Judge, District Magistrate, Sheriff, Deputy Prothonotary, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Clerk of the Hull Court, the Governor of the prison, the crier, in a word every official—without exception—is a French Canadian. For over thirty-five years the prothonotary's place has been filled by an English speaking Protestant; in the present instance there is no Protestant applicant for the position. The struggle seems to be between one or two prominent French Canadians and an Irish Catholic member of the Bar. The last person's application has been signed by all the lawyers of the district, also by the warden and the member of the county, and his appointment would meet with unanimous approval.

The applicant in question has helped the late Mr. Driscoll in his duties for some time past; and especially since that gentleman's severe illness, during the past few months, has he performed

all the important work of the office. He is not only a Q. C. but he is also the author of the most complete Code of Civil Procedure that our Province possesses.

When the late Mr. Haldane, Governor of the prison, resigned, he was replaced by Mr. Moussette—a French Canadian; Mr. Draper, the turnkey, was replaced by another French Canadian; so was the English-speaking crier of the court replaced by a French Canadian. Mr. McLeod, the District magistrate, was replaced by Judge Rouleau, who was succeeded by District Magistrate St. Julien. Mr. Grondin took the place of an English-speaking person in the Prothonotary's office. In all fairness we ask that Mr. Driscoll be succeeded by the first Irish Catholic who ever applied for any place of trust in connection with the courts of that district. Above all, when the applicant is beyond all question the best qualified and most competent man in that district for the situation, do we think it the duty of the Government to hearken to the popular voice in his favor.

OUR FOUR PER CENT COUNCIL.

On Friday afternoon the Montreal City Council put the cap on the climax of its heaped-up unpardonable actions. By this time every one of our readers is aware that by a majority of ONE the City Council decided to recommend that the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council should sanction a license to sell four per cent lager at the Sohmer Park, on Sundays, during the coming year. Already have we expressed our opinion, somewhat emphatically, regarding the folly of legislation that declared a beverage to be a non-intoxicant, while the experience of long years has proven the contrary. However, the Legislature that passed this illogical and most pernicious act, escapes a considerable amount of the responsibility regarding its operations, because it only can come into effect in a locality upon the recommendation of the municipal authorities of that place. The lessee of the Sohmer Park applied to the City Council of Montreal for a recommendation to the Government in order that he might obtain a license to sell "soft drinks" on Sundays at the Park. Heretofore such a license would not have been a terrible menace to public morals; but since the Legislature has declared four per cent lager to be a "soft-drink," the granting of the permit has an entirely different significance for the public. Last year it would have meant the permission to sell non-intoxicating refreshment, on Sunday; the worst that could have been then said of it was that it was an encouragement for those who set up their attractions of games and amusements in opposition to the Church that strives to draw the people to localities more in accordance with the day. But this year it means the sanctioning of drunkenness and all the consequent evils upon the day that should be consecrated at another shrine than that of Bacchus.

And yet our city fathers blush not to carry a motion that virtually flings the park gates open to thousands and pours out for the multitude the most besotting and sickening of all intoxicants. However, we must be just. In speaking of the City Council we refer to that public body as a whole, not to all the individuals composing it. For the sixteen aldermen who opposed this most iniquitous measure we have only words of praise and of thanks, and in all we may have to say regarding the elected opponents of popular will, the interested disregards of the city's voice, the persistent violators of the mandates that

sent them to their seats at the City Hall, we desire that the very reverse should be chalked down in favor of the minority in this case. In order that there may be no mistaking who the men are who voted for this motion, we give the division list. Mark well their names; cut them out and keep them until next election day.

Ayes—Leclerc, Desmarre, Marsolais, Farrell, Hurtubise, Beausoleil, Dubuc (P.), Savignac, Brunet, Villeneuve, Dubuc (A.), Perrault, Clendinning, Germain, Rainville, Prefontaine, Hurteau.—17.

Nays—Bumbray, Renault, Costigan, Smith, McBride, James, Stearns, Wilson, Kennedy, Griffin, Tansey, Thompson, Nolan, Conroy, Stevenson, Jeannotte.—10.

We have a word to say regarding the action of Alderman Kennedy. It is unnecessary to say much; his words and his stand are upon record and must not be forgotten. He spoke out boldly and held out strongly against the granting of that license, or rather the recommendation from the Council to the Lieutenant-Governor. When the advocates of the infamous measure instanced the granting of licenses in the past to the lessees of booths on St. Helen's Island and at the Mountain Park, Mr. Kennedy settled the matter in one well-directed sentence; "two wrongs won't make a right." Decidedly it was not his fault if the majority was in favor of the disgraceful motion. There is one thing about Mr. Kennedy, he can be relied upon: his word is his bond; and it would be difficult to say as much about the majority of his colleagues in that chamber of horrors, called the City Council. Aldermen James, McBride, Costigan, Stearns, Tansey, Stevenson, and the others who held out against the "four per cent lager beer men," have done themselves credit, and by their votes on Friday have certainly done much to wipe out the evil impressions that the electors entertained regarding some of them on other questions.

But what are we to say of Alderman Clendinning? Perchance what we would like to say, and what his conduct, on that occasion richly deserves, can be better felt and understood by the indignant electors of St. Antoine Ward than we could ever express it. Imagine the man who represents the great temperance ward of the city, the man in whom the first promoters of public morality and advocates of restricted licenses had repeatedly placed entire confidence, the man who so often left it to be understood that he was in harmony with the views of the people who voted for him, and that he was only seeking an opportunity of having their every wish gratified,—imagine that same man boldly and unhesitatingly standing up in the Council room and not only voting for the motion that was aimed at the best safe-guards of the city's morality, but even pleading the cause that he had been elected to oppose. Alderman Prefontaine moved the resolution—we are not surprised at him—and Alderman Clendinning seconded it—but we are surprised at him. But great as our surprise may be it is but a zephyr compared to the hurricane of surprises that shall fall to his share when he next seeks election (if he has the audacity to do so) in St. Antoine Ward.

"All is lost save our honor," this expression of the famous warrior can be easily applied in another and revised form on this occasion; "all is not lost, except the honor of the city." The Council has passed the resolution by a fluke, by an accidental majority of one. But that resolution has to go to Quebec, and upon the recommendation therein contained the Lieutenant-Governor in Council can grant the license. But the Government that can grant it on the City Council's recommendation can also refuse to grant it at the request of the people. Therefore no time should be lost in letting the vox

populi sound in the ears of the Government. The Council was deaf to the eloquent pleadings of the citizens, to the words of Father McCallen and to the powerfully expressed desires of important deputations; let the people take up these words and these representations and send them echoing down to Quebec.

In a word, we advocate a mass meeting of the citizens of Montreal, to be called at once, to give expression to the city's disapproval of the City's Fathers, and to call upon the Government to reject the recommendation that comes not from the people of Montreal, but from seventeen individuals who, by an accident, hold seats that—had we had a general election last winter—they would certainly not fill to-day. Let our leading temperance men, and some one or more of our prominent temperance organizations, take up this matter. It will brook of no delay.

FROM LONDON comes a despatch telling of the release, from Portland prison, of James Gilbert, the man accused of dynamite throwing. The reason of the release is said to be ill-health. There seems to us, in this humane act of the Government, to be a promise of a general amnesty. We know well that Mr. Gladstone is anxious to have this move made upon the board before he closes this eventful year in his public career. There is something that savors of civilizing influences in the action of a government that is merciful. There are crimes which deserve the severest penalties, yet often are there circumstances connected with the condemned's actions that appeal for a degree of executive clemency. Often is the crime fully expiated before the complete sentence is fulfilled. Even as in the action taken by the Government of England to recognize past injustices and the necessity of granting autonomy to a persecuted country, so in these minor acts of generous forgiveness do we see a brighter hope for the future. Each step is one that removes the ruling powers a degree further from the old tyrannical influences of the past, and a step nearer to the more humane spirit that must eventually govern the nations of earth.

IT APPEARS that Major LeCarron is dying in England. We are also informed that he is under a strong and watchful guard. It is feared that his end might be suddenly hastened were it generally known where he is kept. We think it would be a very good thing were the infirm to quietly pass away. He can be of no further use to his masters and he is beyond ever doing any further harm to the cause and the people that never injured him. His life work—mean as it was—is performed and the sooner he goes in peace the better. Were he to be left too long upon this terrestrial sphere some better and honest man might be foolishly tempted to deal out to him the fate of Carey, and thereby risk the ruin of his own life, both in this world and the next. The sooner all these relics of evil days have quietly disappeared the better. When England grants the long-retarded justice of Home Rule to Ireland, we want to commence the dawning century with a clean slate. Informers, spies, traitors, coercion acts, arms bills, and all the machinery of the past eras of misrule should be relegated to oblivion. Not even as reminders of the days of suffering and misfortune should their debris be seen.

The postage on letters to Newfoundland has been reduced from five to three cents.

The Halifax Liberals have elected delegates to the Ottawa convention.