





# OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

By AUNT BECKY.

Dear Boys and Girls:

I fancy you are all very busy preparing for Christmas. I think it would be very nice to write to the corner telling us all what you intend doing. If you are going to have a Christmas tree, if you are planning surprises for your friends out of your ingenious little brains, and what you are expecting Santa Claus to bring you. This would be interesting reading for the little folks who take pleasure in reading this page.

Your sincere friend,  
AUNT BECKY.

Dear Aunt Becky:

It is with great pleasure I write my first letter to you. I have heard a great deal about you from reading the letters in the True Witness. I enjoy this beautiful Catholic paper very much, and I've been reading it since I was able to read, and I am now fourteen years old. I will be fifteen on Christmas Day. Is it not a beautiful birthday to have? I attend the Collegiate Institute and I like the studies very much. I study Latin, French, zoology, botany and many others. I also study music, and I like all my teachers very well. We have had two or three snowstorms this year and the weather is very, very cold. Our Peterboro Cathedral is a magnificent piece of architecture. The plan is so artistically laid out. The women had their jubilee a week ago, and the men had theirs last week. I made the jubilee and received Communion. I have four brothers and four sisters. My eldest sister entered the convent of St. Joseph three years ago, and is at present in Lindsay. Mother missed her very much at first and does still, but she is getting used to being without her. Mother and father are anxious that we all should be sisters. At times I think I would and other times I think I wouldn't. I suppose when I get older I will feel different. Well, dear Aunt, I hope this is not too long. I will close, with hopes to see my letter in print. I remain,

Your affectionate niece,  
AILEEN.

Peterboro, Ont.

Dear Aunt Becky:

I am glad Christmas is drawing near, for Santa Claus always brings me presents and lots of candies and fruit. I wonder if there are any children that he does not visit at Xmas. My papa started to get up his wood pile. We raised a hundred and forty-five chickens this summer. My baby brother, who is five years old, gathers the eggs most of the time. Good-bye,

LIZZIE.

Granby.

Dear Aunt Becky:

I was reading some very nice stories in the True Witness last night on the children's page. I like to read them. You think the birds are depending on our charity in the cold weather, so do I. There are a lot of birds stay in the cupola of our barn, and they come down every day into the door yard to pick up crumbs my little brother scatters for them. It is such fun to see them hop about, trying to see which will get the most. He takes great delight in feeding them. Good-bye,

ROSE.

Dear Aunt Becky:

We have been taking the True Witness for a long time and noticing the boys' and girls' little letters. I thought I would write one. I go to St. Patrick's School. I like it very well, it is a fine school. It is in the best part of the city and well ventilated. The Christian Brothers are very nice. I was in the country last summer. I had a fine time, especially on hot days, when we would run races, in our bare feet. One day my brother, cousin and I went up to the mountain to pick berries. On the top of the mountain there is a big bush which is about ten miles wide and I don't know how long. After we had eaten our fill of berries we thought it was time to go home, but when we looked around we did not know where we were. My brother, who is three years older than I, said it would be better to take one direction and keep straight ahead so we started, and we walked and walked. We were all scratched from the bushes. I was afraid that we would not get out of the bush till the next morning, but at last we came to a road and we thought we would follow it. After we came to a house and we inquired the way to get home. However, we got home, and found our neighbors were all out looking for us with lanterns. I guess I will have to close now, as I have got

to go and study my lessons. If this letter is all right I will write again.

Your little friend,  
M. B. (11 years old.)

### THE LUCKY LITTLE FIDDLER.

The clock on the great stone church at the corner showed that it was only half-past six, but the short November afternoon had long since deepened into darkness. The lights on the avenue shone with a flickering gleam, through the fast falling snow.

Suddenly around the corner came a figure, and as it passed under an electric light, the rays fell on a slender little lad in shabby garments, with a violin clasped tightly in his arms.

The boy's face was thin and pale, and the great brown eyes seemed full of unshed tears. Wearily he leaned against the post. No one cared to listen to him to-day, and he would have no supper. Neither breakfast nor dinner had he had, for that matter.

Oh, it was so cold, and he was so hungry.

Perhaps he might lie down here in the snow and an angel might see him and take him up to Paradise. What was that verse? Ah, yes! "And they shall have neither hunger nor thirst."

What a beautiful place that must be! He wondered if little Patrick, the bootblack, was there now. Patrick had died in the early fall.

How many nights they had shared a bun or a bit of fruit together, and planned a dazzling future, when he was a great musician and Patrick a banker, living on Fifth avenue.

Well, Patrick had found a better home than the palatial mansion he had pictured; but he was just a tired, hungry little street waif.

As he stood there in a sort of stupor, a light flashed from a window across the way. The curtain was up and he could see into the luxurious dining room where preparations for the evening meal were going on. The sight of that tempting table filled him with fresh strength, and crossing the street he drew his bow across his violin and began to play.

Now, in that great mansion lived a woman past the first bloom of youth, but with its traces still upon her. A stately, haughty woman, possessed of many talents, she dwelt in the luxurious house alone. All her kindred had crossed the dark river, and she was left, the last of a noble family. Society admired but stood in awe of her. She gave her money with lavish hand to charities, herself she never gave.

While possessing much that makes life desirable, Elinor Wentworth had missed the best in life. To-night she sat before the open fire, a bored, listless look on her handsome face. She would have to go abroad this winter, she was thinking. Home was unbearably dull.

Suddenly she raised her head in wonder. Through the still night air came the sound of a violin. Louder and louder rose the plaintive notes, and so full of sadness were they that tears unbidden came to the listener's eyes.

Hastily ringing the bell, she ordered the servant to learn who was playing outside in the bitter night.

He came back in a moment: "Twas nothing but a beggar lad, and he would send him away."

She cried out imperatively to bring him in.

"Bring him right here!" she said to the astonished man.

The boy entered, his weary face full of dread. Probably she would send him to the police station.

"What is your name?" she commanded.

"Donald Shepard, ma'am," he replied slowly.

"Play for me. Anything," and Miss Elinor seated herself and watched him closely.

He played a simple little melody, but as she looked something stirred her thoughts. Once, long ago, she had a little brother with just such beautiful dark eyes. She had worshipped him, and had cried out fiercely when he had been taken away.

What if Stephen had been left to the mercy of the cold world. The

old, tender impulses, so long repressed, leaped forth.

"Stop!" she cried, and calling him to her, held his cold little hands in her own warm ones, while she said gently:

"Donald, you have a wonderful talent. Now, I want you to tell me all about yourself."

He told her quietly. Told her of his father's struggle with poverty; how he had been a music teacher, and in the spring had followed the mother dead long ago, and had left his boy nothing in the world but his treasured violin, and the legacy of an honest name.

Miss Elinor had listened silently, her thoughts busy, but now she said:

"Donald, I once had a little brother who was dearer than all the world to me. He is gone, and I am all alone. So are you, and I want you to come and take his place," and then she drew him into her lap and kissed him.

People said that winter that Elinor Wentworth seemed to grow younger and brighter; that she had been alone so long a companion was what she needed.

She thought so herself, when the long silent rooms rang with the sound of a child's merry voice; or when at night she and Donald sat before the fire making plans for the years to come, or talking of those who were waiting for them in the far country.

One evening when they had been speaking of these loved ones, Donald told her of little Patrick, and of the neglected grave in the cemetery.

"I wish I could put a stone on it, Aunt Elinor!" he said, and she bent and kissed him for an answer.

So it came about that a week later they stood by a little mound and at the head was a marble stone with a beautiful angel on top, and below was written: "Patrick Dooley, aged ten years.—R. I. P."

### IN ST. PATRICK'S WARD

(Continued from Page 2.)

her and asked who couldn't be glad to be out of that; and in the next moment informing her that maybe when she was anointed she might find herself cured an' out, as many a wan had before her, an' wasn't it well known that them that the priest laid his holy hands on, as likely as not took a good turn imaydiate.

Later on Sister Louise bent over Mrs. Brady with gentle reassuring words.

"God knows best, you know," she said at the end of her little homily, "you will say 'His will be done,' won't you?"

"Sure Sister, how can I?" whispered Mrs. Brady, opening her troubled eyes, her face almost awful to look on in its grey pallor. "How can I say 'His will be done' if I'm to die in the workhouse? An' me poor little boy comin' as fast as he can across the say to take me out of it, an' me breakin' my heart prayin' that I might live to see the day! An' when he comes back he'll find the parish has buried me. Ah, Sister, how am I to resign myself at all? In the name of God, how am I to resign myself?"

The tears began to trickle down her face, and Sister Louise cried a little too for sympathy, and stroked Mrs. Brady's hand, and coaxed and cajoled and soothed and preached to the very best of her ability; and at the end left the patient quiet, but apparently unconvinced.

It was with some trepidation that she approached her on the morrow. Mrs. Brady's attitude was so unusual that she felt anxious and alarmed. As a rule the Irish poor die calmly and peacefully, happy in their faith and resignation; but this poor woman stood on the brink of eternity with a heart full of bitterness, and a rebellious will.

Mrs. Brady's first words, however, reassured her.

"Sister, I'm willin' now to say 'His will be done.'"

"Thank God for that," cried Sister Louise, fervently.

"Aye, well wait till I tell ye. In the night when I was lying awake I took to lookin' at St. Patrick beyant, wid the little lamp flickerin' an' shinin' on his face, an' I thought o' Barney, an' that I'd never see him agin, an' I burst out cryin', 'Oh, St. Patrick!' says I, 'how'll I ever be able to make up my mind to it at all?' An' St. Patrick looked back at me rale wicked. An, 'oh,' says I agin, 'God forgive me, but sure how can I help it?' An' there was St. Patrick still wid the cross look on him, p'intin' to the shamrock in his hand, as much as to say, 'there is but the wan God in three divine persons, an' Him ye must obey.' So then I took to baitin' me breast an' sayin' 'the will o' God be done!' an' if ye'll believe me, Sister, the next time I took heart to look at St. Patrick there he was smilin' for all the world the moral o' poor Barney. So, says I, after that."

"Well, Sister, the will of God be done! He knows best, Sister alanna, doesn't he? But," with a weak sob, "my poor little boy's heart'll be broke out an' out when he finds I'm after dyin' in the workhouse!"

"We must pray for him," said the Sister, softly, "you must pray for him and offer up the sacrifice that God asks of you, for him. Try 'not to fret so much, Barney would not like you to fret. He would grieve terribly if he saw you like this."

"Feth he would," said Mrs. Brady, sobbing again.

"Of course he would. But if he heard you were brave and cheerful over it all, it would not be half so bad for him."

Mrs. Brady lay very quiet after this and seemed to reflect.

When the priest came presently to administer the Sacraments of the dying to her, she roused herself and received them with much devotion; and presently beckoned Sister Louise to approach.

"Sister, when Barney comes axin' for me, will ye give him me ades an' the little medal that's round me neck, an' tell him I left him me blessin'—will ye, dear?"

"Indeed I will."

"God bless ye. An' tell him," speaking with animation and in rather louder tones, "tell him I didn't fret at all, an' died quite content an' happy an'—an' thankful to be in this blessed place where I got every comfort. Will ye tell him that, Sister, alanna?"

The Sister bowed her head; this time she could not speak.

It was nearly two months after-

wards that Sister Louise was summoned to the parlor to see "Mr. Brady" who had recently arrived from America, and to whom his cousin, Mr. Byrne, had broken the news of his mother's death.

Sister Louise smiled and sighed as she looked at this big, strapping, prosperous-looking young fellow, and remembered his mother's description of him. The black eyes and curly hair and rosy cheeks were all there, certainly, but otherwise the likeness to "St. Patrick" was not so very marked.

"Mr. Brady wants to hear all about his poor mother, Sister," said the Sister Superior. "This is Sister Louise, Mr. Brady, who attended your poor mother to the last."

Mr. Brady, who seemed a taciturn youth, rolled his black eyes towards the new comer and waited for her to proceed.

Very simply did Sister Louise tell her little story, dwelling on such of his mother's sayings, during her last illness, as she thought might interest and comfort him.

"There are her beads, and the little medal, which she always wore. She left them to you with her blessing."

Barney thrust out one large brown hand and took the little packet, swallowing down what appeared to be a very large lump in his throat.

"She told me," pursued the Sister in rather tremulous tones, "to tell you that she did not fret at all at the last and died content and happy. She did, indeed, and she told me to say that she was thankful to be here."

But Barney interrupted her with a sudden incredulous gesture, and a big sob. "Ah, whist Sister!" he said. —Selected.

### THE TRUE YELLOW PERIL.

In a recent sermon, the Bishop of Fall River warned his hearers against the sensational Sunday papers, which he described as "the true yellow peril of this country"; urging parents to keep them away from their homes, out of the hands of their children. "You can not preserve the purity of the home if you have these sensational sheets in them," said the Bishop.

It is a far cry from Fall River to Calcutta, but in distant India the same baneful influence is felt, and the same warning is re-echoed. "Through the secular press," says the Catholic Herald of Calcutta, "many come to lose touch with Catholic interests and Catholic life." Disregard of this evil, neglect of counteracting influence, is a sign of carelessness creeping in and threatening to smother Catholic life. "There is no denying," adds our distant contemporary, "that in a Catholic paper one finds what must, on the whole, to a great extent, keep alive the true Catholic spirit so much needed when everything around us is so worldly and even debased."

### NATURE'S JOKES.

Gardeners all over the world are toiling to produce new flowers. Nature, in a freakish moment, will sometimes accomplish what generations of horticulturists have been unable to effect, says Pearson's Magazine.

As an instance in point, there is a Malmaison rosebush in a garden at Violet Hill, Stowmarket, which one summer recently produced a most astonishing floral freak. The rose grows near an apple tree, and when one of its largest buds first burst into bloom it was seen that five perfect apple blossom petals were springing in its centre.

A flower discovered on the isthmus of Tehuantepec in the early morning blooms a pure white; by midday it has changed to a perfect red, but before it closes at nightfall it has turned to a pale blue. Even more wonderful than its change of color is the fact that at noon only does it give out any perfume.

But the strangest flower is the New South Wales flannel flower. It is so called because it has the exact appearance of having been carefully cut out of white flannel.

### ONE AT A TIME.

We are told that Adam Forepaugh once had a big white parrot that had learned to say, "One at a time, gentlemen; one at a time. Don't crush." The bird had, of course, acquired this sentence from the ticket-taker of the show. One day the parrot was lost in the country, and Mr. Forepaugh started out post-haste to hunt for it. People here and there who had seen the parrot, directed him in his quest, and finally, as he was driving by a cornfield, he was overjoyed to hear a familiar voice. He got out and entered the field, and found the parrot in the middle of a flock of crows, that had pecked him till he was almost featherless. As the crows bit and nipped away, the parrot, lying on his side, repeated over and over: "One at a time, gentlemen. One at a time. Don't crush."

### THE SECRET OF "FRUIT-A-TIVES"

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or Fruit Liver Tablets

are the juices of fresh, ripe apples, oranges, figs and prunes—prepared by our secret process, and compressed into tablets.

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At all druggists, 50c. a box.

FRUITATIVES, Limited, OTTAWA.

### WHAT DOCTORS SAY.

An Unprejudiced Exposition of the Danger of Alcohol.

During the last year there has been an unusual amount of discussion by leading physicians in England and France of the value of alcohol as a drug and its dangers as a beverage. There has thus been put on record a mass of testimony of the highest scientific character and entirely free from prejudice. The conclusions justified by the experience of the majority of these men may be briefly summed up as follows:

In certain bodily conditions and when carefully administered alcohol is a valuable drug, but it is at present used much too freely and with distinct harmful results. Its use as a daily beverage in any form is dangerous physically and morally. As an illustration of its medicinal abuse Sir Samuel Wilkes cites the following case:

"A young lady, for many years the subject of heart disease, had finally been forced to take to her bed, and I was called in consultation. It was a matter of formality, as she was thought to be dying.

"She was lying in bed gasping with a fluttering heart and an almost imperceptible, irregular pulse and semi-conscious; she was being plied with brandy to keep her alive. The two medical men who were present did not perceive that they were poisoning her, but nevertheless assented to my strong wish to stop the spirit. I met her a short time afterward walking in the street."

As to the daily drinking of some form of alcohol, while the weight of opinion was against it, several of the physicians said they had observed no ill effects from its use in moderation in themselves or their patients. Dr. J. Simms Woodhead, however, calls attention to the significant fact that when the body is being trained for any unusual exertion the use of alcohol is strictly prohibited.

During his athletic career at the University of Edinburgh he says: "I was early impressed by the fact that nearly every athlete who was not already an abstainer became practically a teetotaler during his period of strict training and in some cases had to stop to alter his routine of life that he found it almost impossible to do anything but keep in training. Those of us, on the other hand, who were teetotalers had to alter our daily routine of living comparatively little. We could continue our work in the classes, and it was not necessary for us to refuse social invitations.

"It is not dancing, dining or working that upsets men. It is getting rid of the alcohol. I may say most confidently that during my most successful athletic years I did my best class work, and during the whole of that time I do not know that I had to refuse a single invitation on account of training."

### TO LIVE IN THE LORD.

How can we live in the love of our Lord? By making this love, living in the Eucharist, our centre of life, the only centre of consolation, in pain, in sorrow, in deception. He invites us: "Come to Me, all ye who labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you."

Thinking to puzzle the eminent physicist and microscopist, they brought him a miscellaneous collection of articles taken from the stomach of an ostrich.

"You can't fool me on that, gentlemen," he said. "That's the contents of a boy's pocket."



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How the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Was Celebrated in Montreal Churches.

(Continued from Page 1.)

have already asked. My son, my daughter, she says, give me your heart. No matter what temptations you have, no matter what struggles you have, I am the mother of our Lord, trust your soul to me, and when your salvation is secure. Trust yourself in Mary, Mary Immaculate, the glory of Jerusalem, the joy of Israel, the honor of our people. Who can be against us if Mary Immaculate, the triumph of God over sin and the devil, protects us? This jubilee closes this evening, and the joy and happiness shall be ours if we prove faithful sons and daughters to our spotless mother. Oh, break the habits of sin, stay away from dancing halls and give up that cursed drink which has your soul separated from God. Give up that everlasting curse which can only be quenched by the fires of hell. Come to Mass regularly, be faithful to your daily duties, and then when death comes Mary Immaculate shall be at your death bed to take your soul and present it to God, saying, "Here is my child, here is the soul of my Immaculate Conception, who promised at the end of the Jubilee to be faithful to me," and then, my friends, the words of my text shall be forever in your hearts, and then we shall sing with the angels and saints, who bow down before the majesty of God, and who forever and ever cry out unceasingly, "Praise and Glory, thanksgiving and power to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, who has made Mary so perfect, so beautiful and so holy. Praise and thanksgiving to God our Lord, who has given us the victory through Mary the Immaculate Conception." Amen.

On Sunday evening the exercises of the week came to a close with the solemn and touching ceremony of the reception of one hundred and sixteen young women into the Sodality of the B. V. M. The Act of Consecration read by Rev. Father Fortier, C.S.S.R., Director of the Sodality, was responded to by the aspirants in a most impressive manner. After the consecration both the senior and junior members of the Sodality marched in procession around the church, singing hymns to Mary. The young ladies' sodality choir sang the Benediction of the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Their rendition of the sweet, soulful music lent additional charm to the devotion of the occasion, while the music of the regular choir on the Sunday following was worthy of particular note.

All in all, the week has been a never-to-be-forgotten one by the people of St. Ann's. To them and their zealous, beloved spiritual guides many golden years, even more blessed and fruitful, if possible, than the past.

ST. GABRIEL'S PARISH.

The children's Mass was said at 8.45, during which the pupils of the Convent of the Holy Cross sang hymns in honor of the Blessed Virgin. At the three Masses 1100 people received Holy Communion. At ten o'clock solemn High Mass was sung by Rev. Father O'Meara, the pastor. The high altar was tastefully decorated with flowers. The altar of the Blessed Virgin was artistically arranged with potted plants, flowers, banners and colored lights, and reflected great credit on Miss S. Lyons and Miss Annie O'Grady. At 7.30 p.m. the rosary was recited, followed by a discourse on the feast of the day by Rev. Father Fahey. A procession of the Children of Mary then took place, during which the ladies sang sweetly several hymns. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament closed the proceedings. The singing of the fine choir of the church lent an additional charm. Rev. Fathers O'Gorman, S.J., and Malone, S.J., of Loyola College, assisted Rev. Father O'Meara and Fahey to make the celebration worthy of the parishioners, and all have reason to be proud of the way they honored the day.

The Presbytery was beautifully illuminated during the evening. Chinese lanterns, electric lights, and lanterns being used which made a very pretty scene. St. Gabriel school was decorated with flags, and at night was brilliantly illuminated. The windows of the Holy Cross Convent presented a pretty picture, with their mottoes and colored lights. The Christian Brothers' school and community were also brilliantly illuminated, as well as hundreds of houses in the parish.

ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH.

At St. Anthony's Church the feast was celebrated with great eclat. The main altar was adorned with innumerable colored electric and other lights, flowers and potted plants, while the Blessed Virgin's altar was artistically arranged. At ten o'clock solemn High Mass was sung by Rev. Father Donnelly, assisted by Rev. M. L. Shea, as deacon, and Rev. Thos. Heffernan as sub-deacon. The choir rendered a pretty musical Mass by Gounod, Miss M. E. Donovan presiding at the organ. In the evening the church was taxed to its utmost capacity, hundreds being obliged to stand. In the vast congregation were a large number of Protestants, who listened with rapt attention to the eloquent discourse given by Rev. Father T. Heffernan. The sermon was a masterly one, and will linger in the minds of those who had the pleasure of hearing the rev. gentleman. The Rev. Father took for his text: "Thou art all fair, O my love, and there is no spot in thee." (Cantic of Canticles.) Fifty years have come and gone, fifty of joy, fifty of sorrows, for the individual, the family, the nation,—since Pius IX., of memory sainted and immortal, from his throne raised opposite the altar, in the extremity of the Basilica, ushered forth into the fulness of its light the dogma: Thou art immaculate, Maria. This incident is not to be forgotten. The oldest of the Cardinals and the oldest of the bishops accompanied by the Catholic Patriarchs of the Greek Church, approaching, knelt at the feet of His Holiness, asking him in the name of the Holy Roman Catholic Church to be willing to decree as a dogma of faith that the Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of our God, our Creator and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, had been exempted from the universal stain of original sin, and that she was consequently immaculate in her conception.

The thrill of deepest emotion was felt through the whole assembly as the Vicar of Jesus Christ arose. Having asked for the last time the guidance of the Holy Ghost, by the solemn intoning of the Veni Creator, in the midst of a silence so profound that all those present could distinctly hear his voice, the Pontiff Supreme read the decree of Faith: "By the authority of our Lord, Jesus Christ, of the holy Apostles, Peter and Paul, and by our own, we declare and define that the Blessed Virgin Mary has been, from the first moment of her conception, preserved from all stain of original sin and that this doctrine is revealed by God. If any dare to think otherwise, let him know that he is condemned, and that he has departed from the Catholic Faith."

Dear beloved, I positively abstain from any description whatever of the time, place and circumstances of this solemn occasion. I leave you now just for a moment to your own imagination. A moment. Let us not be unwise; rather let us keep full with the oil of present grace the lamp of our holy faith. Contemplate but for a moment the scene enacted in the Church of God this blessed day.

"What happiness can equal mine" comes from the lips of the Virgin Immaculate. Around her throne hasten, as only angels and saints may, those countless angelic spirits, chief among whom we notice Gabriel, the Archangel, who so many hundred years ago, a messenger from God, found in her room at Nazareth a young and tender girl in the most sacred recollection awaiting the fulfillment of Heaven's eternal decree—Mary, Mary Immaculate.

But why dwell upon the doings of the angels? Their nature is so much purer and holier and loftier than ours that it were but drawing fitting figures of the imagination. Rather let us consider the other host—the immense, the grand host of the saints of God—our brothers, our sisters, who having lived in the flesh knew its contradictions, its onsets, its conflicts, but knew, too, the secret of victory in contest. But what of those? Ah, Pius IX., thou art there, thou, the champion of thy mother's cause. Thou that indomitable spirit, who understood so well what was demanded of thee, placed between "love and duty"—love that would have saved thee the words, "If any dare to think otherwise, let him know, etc.;" duty that made thee recognize, "If he will not hear the Church, let him be to thee as the heathen and publican." Is it wrong, think you, dearly beloved, that Mary, our Mother, caused to be erected at her right hand on this special day a special throne for her select and noble son Pius Nono? Immaculate! Immaculate! sounds forth around about on every side. Are any of ours among the happy ones? Fathers, mothers,

you who sit here to-night, has it been your privilege to have offered to God the souls of little babes, shortly after the waters of baptism glistened upon their baby brows? Mothers, you who seemed to feel the death grip upon the heart as the lifeless little form was borne away to the cemetery! Mothers, you who were not as yet able to fashion the little lips to produce the sound, papa, mamma, may rest assured that they, under the maternal vigilance and care of Mother Immaculate, have been taught to pronounce this day, Immaculate, Immaculate. Are there any of us here who have witnessed the pious death of some loved parent, relative, friend? Such as they have also venerated before her throne pronouncing with their saintly lips Immaculate, etc. And we of the Church Militant, are not wanting when the voice of mother calls us to duty. This morning in every church throughout the land souls bent low in adoration to receive their God, the Son of Mary, in honor of the Virgin Immaculate. To-night, your presence in this overcrowded edifice bears ample testimony to undying filial affection for our Mother Immaculate. And why should it be otherwise? With our flesh and blood of earth, the fiftieth anniversary of an important event calls for special observance, the presents are then of gold. This the reason, therefore, of the extraordinary things of to-day. Our flesh and blood of heaven should not be worse treated than those of earth.

What is it all about? may be heard from the lips of those who never learned to experience this Immaculate Mother's love. I see before me some, and quite a few, who are not of the holy religion. Chiefly for them shall I briefly explain the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. At all times among Catholics it was firmly believed that Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, was immaculate—that is, that on account of the unique position she was to fill in the history of the world, there could not possibly be any instant in her whole existence during which she was affected by any sin. This was all very well, but let it be clearly understood that there always have been and always will be men who argue for argument sake, and others who argue through ignorance—such ignorance as is extant through an imperfect education—and you know the old adage, "A little education is a dangerous thing."

Up to fifty years ago this question of conception immaculate was what we call a free question—that is to say, men could argue about it, consider its merits, admit it or imprudently deny it. Men, in other words, could make use, and did make use of license, to the detriment, partial, it is true, of liberty—it was then that Rome spoke, and checked the foolishness of some of her children, by taking away their license and obliging them to make good use of their liberty. This is the reason why proclamation was given to a truth that was with the Church, as its tenet, from the very beginning.

St. Anthony's Presbytery was brilliantly illuminated by rows of electric and other lights, as well as the exterior of the church.

The Catholic Emigration Home, corner of Fulford and St. Antoine streets, was tastefully decorated and beautifully illuminated, the statue of the Immaculate Conception being brilliantly lighted. St. Agnes Academy, St. Anthony's Young Men's hall, and hundreds of houses in the parish demonstrated that nothing was spared to do honor to the occasion.

ST. MARY'S.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception in this beautiful Church, dedicated in a special manner to Our Lady of Good Counsel, presented a striking figure on the 8th instant, when the Children of Mary and the pupils of the convent lined up in a grand procession of the Living Rosary. An impressive sermon was preached on the occasion by Rev. Father Connolly, S.J. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given by Rev. Father Cullinan and Rev. Father McDonald presided at the recitation of the beads. High Mass was sung at ten o'clock by Rev. Father Brady, P.P.

ST. MICHAEL'S.

Solemn High Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Ethelbert, assisted by Rev. Father Kiernan and Callahan as deacon and sub-deacon respectively. The new gold vestments worn for the first time on this occasion, were the special gift of a member of the parish. The Blessed Virgin's altar was tastefully and elaborately decorated for the occasion. The sermon was given by the Rev. Fa-

ther Kiernan, who took his text from the Book of Judith, as follows: "Thou the glory of Jerusalem and the joy of Israel and the honor of our people."

In the afternoon, solemn Vespers were sung by the Rev. Chaplain of the Carmelites, assisted by Rev. Fathers Kiernan and Callahan. In the evening, both church and presbytery were grandly illuminated, as were also many of the residences in the parish.

CHURCH OF THE GESU.

The Church of the Gesu, Bleury street, had very imposing celebrations during the day. At the High Mass, the beautifully illuminated altars, the grandeur of the ceremonies, and the soul-inspiring music—all lent an additional charm to the great event. In the afternoon, at a special service for young men of the Sodality, Rev. Louis Lalande, S.J., gave a stirring exhortation. The Marquis de Maisonneuve, said the speaker, the dauntless soldier who founded Montreal, had consecrated himself to the imitation of the Mother of God and had dedicated the whole colony to her. In his life he made edifying practice of the virtues of his exemplar—her unquestioning loyalty and obedience to Divine inspiration and to the right, her purity, her industry and charity as they have come down in the living traditions of the Church.

Then in forcible language Father Lalande exhorted his hearers to practice, as Maisonneuve did, a virile devotion to Mary; to spend their lives in industry, purity and loyalty to the good; to the individuals to live up to their own conscience; to be obedient everywhere to legitimate authority, but to truckle to no man, and never to lower themselves by crowding for petty places.

They were to aim to be individuals, to be the echo of no other man; individuals worthy first of all of their own self-respect. They could not be otherwise than worthy human children of Mary, and good citizens, unafraid to stand alone if need be against corruption and debasing bribery and perjury. They would then bear themselves as men in a period of political decadence.

In conclusion, Father Lalande asked the young men to train themselves away from being acrobats in principle, to scorn the ability that consisted in hiding one's flag or principle in the pocket. "Show your colors, boys, and always the colors of the true citizen, the true Christian. Work for this end with the unflinching industry of the Mother of God. Do not fall asleep as the Apostles did in the garden, for while the well-meaning sleep, some Judas in the darkness is active preparing a sad surprise for the good citizen. In the battle waged between the cities of good and evil, it is not enough for the good, surprised with defeat, to throw the blame on Judas. They are themselves in fault. Their own forces had weakened while they slept."

In the evening solemn Vespers and Benediction were held, after which a special display of fireworks took place from St. Mary's College, which was gorgeously decorated and beautifully illuminated. A pretty feature of the occasion was the presentation by the gentlemen who had followed the exercises of the retreat in anticipation of the feast of a magnificent colossal statue of the Blessed Virgin.

AT LOYOLA COLLEGE.

The fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated at Loyola College in a manner worthy of so great a festival. Under the management of the Director and officers of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin, the various functions and ceremonies of the day were executed without a hitch. At 7.30 a.m. the boys assembled in the College Chapel to assist at Mass and receive Holy Communion. The Rev. Rector, Father Turgeon, officiated. During Mass, the Sodality, divided into two sections, day pupils and boarders, recited the Office of Our Lady and sang several hymns with a fervor that showed how fully they appreciated the solemnity of the occasion.

The Rev. Dr. G. McShane, S.S., opened the afternoon services with a beautiful sermon on the dogma that was being commemorated. It was spoken with real warmth of feeling, and was listened to with rapt attention by even the youngest members of the congregation. After the sermon 39 new members were admitted into the Sodality by the Rev. Director, assisted by Messrs. Regan, Vanier, Boyce and Wickham, the four highest dignitaries of the Society. Throughout the different ceremonies

necessary for this impressive function, the boys acquitted themselves of their parts with striking piety and almost military precision. The reception of new members was followed by Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, after which diplomas were distributed to old and new members of the Sodality, and pretty souvenir cards to all present.

During the evening the College was brilliantly illuminated, especially over the main entrance, where the words "Maria Immaculate" in blue and white electric lights were surrounded by a frame of dazzling brightness. Much credit is due to the students of the College for the earnest and pious spirit with which they strove to perform the various duties assigned to them in the preparation and execution of this memorable celebration.

FRANCISCAN CHURCH.

The early Masses at the Church of St. Francis were largely attended by devout congregations, and hundreds approached Holy Communion. The solemn High Mass was sung at 8 o'clock, and a sermon preached. The mellow tones of the monks chanting behind the altar was soul-inspiring. The church had been specially decorated for the occasion. Electric lights were hung around and extended into the sanctuary. Large streamers of colored bunting hung from the ceiling, and also was festooned around the Church. Flowers, candles and colored lights decorated the main altar, and made the scene one of grandeur.

In the evening the church was at its best with its innumerable lights. The scene inside and outside the Monastery was worthy of record. In colored letters the words "Vive, Marie Immaculee," were beautifully illuminated in the windows, while on the tower a large cross formed of Chinese lanterns lit up the scene. On the outside of the grounds on Dorchester street rows of lanterns extended right to the doors of the church. St. Anthony's Villa was a gem of art, and the grand display of colored electric lights around the statue of the Immaculate Conception, and the many lanterns in the windows, reflected great credit on those in charge, and was admired by the passing hundreds. The Franciscan Convent was also tastefully decorated and illuminated.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH.

At the Church of the Immaculate Conception the feast had a double significance; it was parochial and universal. Solemn High Mass was sung at 10 o'clock. Rev. Father Foullet, S.J., delivered the sermon. The rev. preacher gave a masterly oration on the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Not infrequently, said he, have Roman Catholics been taxed with having added new articles of belief to the ancient creeds of the Apostles and the Fathers. This was an unwarranted accusation. Some dogmas had, it is true, lain, as it were, dormant or in a semi-conscious state in the minds of the faithful; but neither the doctors of the Church, nor the simple laymen admitted that since the death of the last Apostle, any new article of faith had gone to swell the deposit confided by Christ to His Apostles. With the demise of St. John, the beloved disciple, revelation closed; and in his own expressive words, "if any man shall add to these things God shall add unto him the plagues written in this book." (Apocal. Chap. 22, v. 18). True, this dogma of Mary's sinless conception was officially defined only fifty years ago. Up to that date a Roman Catholic might have been rash enough to refuse his assent to this revealed truth. He would have shown his ignorance thereby, seeing that the great consensus of opinion among both the doctors and the laity was in favor of the dogma—but he would not have been a heretic on that account.

Now, however, it was not so. The unerring word of Peter's successor had gone forth even to the ends of the earth. He had spoken and the faithful must hearken to his voice or consider themselves without the pale of the Church over which by divine appointment he presided.

This dogma of Mary's sinless conception was intimately bound up with other Roman Catholic truths. Mary was exempt from original sin even in her conception. Her soul alone—among all the children of Adam—was enriched with the precious gift of grace from the moment it came forth from the Creator's hands. Mary alone was conceived immaculate. In the evening solemn Vespers and

Benediction were held, and the church and altars were brilliantly illuminated. After the church service a special display of fireworks took place, and the houses of the parishioners were gaily decorated and illuminated.

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL.

The following cable was received late Wednesday night by Mgr. Racicot, Administrator of the Archdiocese:

Rome, Dec. 7, 1904.  
Rt. Rev. Mgr. Racicot,  
Administrator.

According to the desires of the Most Rev. Archbishop of Montreal, the Holy Father blesses the clergy, religious communities, and the faithful who, in conjunction with Rome, are celebrating the Jubilee of the Immaculate Conception.

(Signed)  
CARDINAL MERRY DEL VAL.

At 10 o'clock Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by His Lordship Mgr. Archambault, of Joliette, Assistant at the throne, Rev. Canon Martin; Deacons of Honor, Fathers Piette and Martin; deacon of Office, Rev. Mr. Singleton; sub-deacon Rev. Mr. Lavigne. Preacher, Rev. Father Fournet, Prof. of Belles-Lettres, Montreal College. The assistant priest and the bearers of the various insignia assisted in copes. The professors and students of both faculties of Laval University attended in a body, the former appearing in academic gowns. After the Mass a grand dinner was served to those present.

NOTRE DAME CHURCH.

The historic Church of Notre Dame has often been seen magnificently decorated, but on Thursday the grandeur was unsurpassed. Around the galleries were the words of the "Magnificat" in large blue letters on white cloth. From the pillars hung large blue silk banners. The statue of the Immaculate Conception presented to the church some years ago by the late Pope Pius IX. was decorated with colored electric lights, candles and flowers. This particularly beautiful statue is of Carrara marble resting on granite pillar, and is the work of a Bavarian artist. The main altar and sanctuary were flooded with hundreds of electric lights, that shed their radiance over the gorgeous decorations. The music was well rendered, the boys' voices being heard to good advantage. Solemn High Mass was sung by Rev. Abbe Troie, S.S., assisted by deacon and sub-deacon. In the afternoon solemn Vespers were sung, and Rev. Father Brosseau, chaplain at Mount St. Louis College, preached the sermon. Solemn Benediction closed the proceedings.

In the evening the Nocturnal Adoration Society held a special service. At all the services the vast edifice was thronged.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, VISITATION STREET.

(Oblate Fathers.)

Here the feast of the Immaculate Conception was preceded by a triduum preached by the Rev. Father Valiquette. Every night the Church was crowded, and on the night immediately preceding the feast, eight confessors were kept in the church until midnight. On the feast itself there was a continual stream of people during all the Masses, giving a consoling manifestation of their faith in the feast which was being so triumphantly placed before the eyes of the world. High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Dequire, O.M.I., assisted by Rev. Fathers Berneche and Blanchard, as deacon and sub-deacon respectively. The altar was tastefully and artistically decorated. The choir, under the direction of Mr. Whalen, rendered a harmonized plain chant Mass with full orchestra accompaniment. Miss Laurier presided at the organ, and an impressive and eloquent sermon was given by Rev. Father Tourangeau, Provincial of the Order. The general solemnity continued until night, when the ceremonies were brought to a close by the singing of the Te Deum.

St. Anthony's Catechism Children's Concert

Next Wednesday afternoon and evening will witness one of these grand gatherings when the children of St. Anthony's Catechism classes will hold their annual concert. The Catechism classes are under the direction of Father T. Heffernan, and while too much praise cannot be given him for his efforts in this respect, we wish both himself and the children all the enjoyment they can anticipate on this occasion.

AGRICULTURAL

SAMPLES OF CHOICE GRAIN FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF SEED.

To the Editor of the True Witness

Dear Sir,—By instruction of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture another distribution will be made this season of samples of the most productive sorts of grain to Canadian farmers for the improvement of seed.

Oats—Banner, Wide-awake, Improved Ligorvo, Waverly, Goldfinder, Abundance and Thousand Dollar.

Barley—Six-rowed.—Mensury, Odessa, Mansfield, Claude and Royal.

Potatoes.—Carman No. 1, Early White Prize, Canadian Beauty, Uncle Sam, American Wonder, Bovee, Early Andes and Late Puritan.

Every farmer may apply, but only one sample can be sent to each applicant, hence if an individual receives a sample of oats he cannot also receive one of wheat, barley or potatoes, and applications for more than one sample for one household cannot be entertained.

Applications should be addressed to the Director of Experimental Farms, Ottawa, and may be sent in any time before the 1st of March, after which the lists will be closed so that all the samples asked for may be sent out in good time for sowing.

Director Experimental Farms, Ottawa, Dec. 1, 1904.

DEVELOPING MARKETS FOR BUTTER.

The Dairy Division of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, has again this year operated a number of creameries in the Northwest Territories, so that farmers in districts adapted to dairying might be able to obtain a cash income from their cows until such time as they are able to carry on the work for themselves.

British Columbia has naturally been the chief market for Territorial butter in the past and still continues to take the bulk of the shipments.

The Yukon butter trade is also being recovered for Canada. The total amount consumed in that territory annually is over 500,000 pounds, of which nearly 200,000 pounds has this year been contributed by the Government creameries in the Northwest Territories.

which nearly 200,000 pounds has this year been contributed by the Government creameries in the Northwest Territories. When the country was first opened several shipments of tinned butter sent up by Canadian firms were found to be very inferior in quality, and, consequently, the Canadian article got a bad name and the market was practically monopolized by the United States.

THE VALUE OF STRICT DAIRY LAWS.

There has been some opposition to our stringent legislation such as the Dairy Products Act of 1898 and the Butter Act of 1903, which forbids the manufacture and sale in Canada of adulterated dairy goods, including filled cheese and process butter.

The case has attracted almost universal attention in Great Britain, and the triumphant vindication of the purity of Canadian dairy products will prove a great advertisement of our goods.

GREEN CUT BONE.

The net cost of any food is the all important point, and frequently ignorance upon this point deters poultrymen from using foods which compared results had with and without their use, are cheaper than foods with which such poultrymen are better acquainted.

ROOT GRAFTING.

The scions for root grafting are cut in fall or winter or any time before the buds swell. The roots should be dug and stored now. Most nurserymen use only pieces of roots for each graft, but many prefer whole roots.

When a horse's shoulders tend to become sore see that the collar fits well, is kept clean, always dried at noon and never allowed to remain on the horse during meal times, says American Cultivator.



LESSONS OF THE LAST IRISH CENSUS.

(Dublin Freeman's Journal.) The facts and figures of the last census return, 1901, as revealed, arranged and summarized in the admirable Presidential address delivered last night by Mr. Robert E. Matheson, the very able and distinguished official who holds the office of Registrar General, at the opening meeting of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, make very melancholy reading for Irishmen interested in the welfare of Ireland.

For a long time indeed, Irish emigration was openly and ostentatiously encouraged by the Government. It was contended that the country was over-populated, and that agriculture, trade and commerce would thrive, and the residue would be rich and prosperous. As common sense might have suggested, the exact reverse has been the case.

But, as has been said, the most suggestive and the most appalling figures of all are the lunacy returns. "In England and Wales the proportion of the insane per 10,000 of the population has increased from 30.89 in 1871 to 40.75 in 1901, that in Scotland the proportion per 10,000 increased from 33.97 in 1871 to 45.37 in 1901, and that in Ireland the population of the mentally deranged per 10,000 of the population rose from 30.49 in 1871 to 56.18 in 1901.

In considering these figures it must be remembered that decade after decade the population has decreased, until from over nine millions fifty years ago it has fallen to less than four and a half millions, while the population of Great Britain has all the time rapidly and steadily increased.

PATENT REPORT.

- The following Canadian patents have been secured during last week through the agency of Messrs. Marion & Marion, Patent Attorneys, Montreal, Can., and Washington, D. C. Nos. 90,165—Robt. H. O. Gale, Quebec, Que. Insulation conduit.

Business Cards.

THE Smith Bros.' Granite Co.

The following was clipped from the "Granite," Boston, Mass.:

"Illustrated in the advertisement of E. L. Smith & Co., Barre, Vt., on another page, is practically their complete plant, with the exception of their derricks. This Company was the first of the quarry owners to use compressed air for operating rock drills, and also the first to take up the plug drill. We can say, without exaggeration, that this concern has the best equipped granite quarry in the country."

THE SMITH BROS. GRANITE CO. 290 Bleury street, are the sole representatives of these famous quarries in Canada. The granite is principally used for the finest class of monumental work.

T. J. O'NEILL, REAL ESTATE AGENT. 180 ST. JAMES STREET.

Loans, Insurances, Renting, and Collecting of Rents. Moderate charges, and prompt returns.

CONROY BROS. 228 Centre Street.

Practical Plumbers, Gas and Steam Fitters. ELECTRICAL and MECHANICAL BELLS, etc. Tel. Main 3552. Night and Day Services.

G. O'BRIEN, House, Sign and Decorative Painter.

LAWRENCE RILEY, PLASTERER. Successor to John Riley. Established in 1866. Plain and Ornamental Plastering. Repairs on all kinds of plasterwork.

CHURCH BELLS. 100 lbs. to 10,000 lbs. McShane's.

MENBLY BELL COMPANY TROY, N.Y., and 177 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY.

DO NOT BUY TRASHY GOODS AT ANY PRICE.

Cowan's Cocoa and Chocolate. Are the Best. Notice the Name on them.

PATENT SOLICITORS. PATENTS PROMPTLY SECURED.

ROOFERS, Etc. ARE YOUR STOVE BRICKS IN BAD ORDER? DON'T WORRY!

GEORGE W. REED & CO., ROOFERS, &c., 785 Craig Street.

THE TRUE WITNESS is printed and published at No. 2 Bury Street, Montreal, Canada, by THE TRUE WITNESS P. & F. CO., Patrick J. Cronin, of Toronto, proprietor.

Society Directory.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY—Established March 6th, 1866 incorporated 1868, revised 1894. Meets in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander street, first Monday of the month.

ST. ANN'S T. A. & B. SOCIETY, established 1868.—Rev. Director, Rev. Father McPhail; President, D. Gallery, M.P.; Sec., J. F. Quinn, 625 St. Dominique street; M. J. Ryan, treasurer, 18 St. Augustin street.

ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY, organized 1885.—Meets in its hall, 157 Ottawa street, on the first Sunday of each month, at 2:30 p.m.

C.M.B.A. OF CANADA, BRANCH 26.—Organized 18th November, 1878.—Branch 26 meets at St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander St., on every Monday of each month.

OFFICIAL CIRCULAR BENEFIT ASSOCIATION GRAND COUNCIL OF QUEBEC. Organized at Niagara Falls, N.Y., July 4, 1876.

A. R. ARCHAMBAULT, Supreme Deputy, Organizer for the Province of Quebec.

ROOFERS, Etc. ARE YOUR STOVE BRICKS IN BAD ORDER? DON'T WORRY!

GEORGE W. REED & CO., ROOFERS, &c., 785 Craig Street.

THE GENERAL MANAGER follows: Referring to the statement before you, the principal compared with last year's increase in the deposit base of \$13,265,000, in the of \$9,143,000, in the current of \$8,699,000, and a decrease balance due by our own and other banks outside Canada 114,000.

There is nothing that calls special remark in connection with these amounts, except the case of the loans and deposits amount of the increase temporary nature and will

BANK OF MONTREAL

Proceedings at Seventh Annual Meeting of Shareholders

A SATISFACTORY Past Year has been One for Dominion of Directors

The eighty-seventh annual meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Montreal was held in the Board Room of the institution on the 5th instant.

There were present: Hon. A. Drummond, K.C.M.G., President; Sir William C. Messers, G. F. C. Smith, Hon. G. Reid, Hon. Robert Messrs. G. F. C. Smith, Hon. C. J. Fleet, K.C., Gen. Henry Morton, R. B. Arrol, Foley, B. A. Boas, F. S. C., Angus W. Hooper, Gault, Thomas Irving, John Morrison.

On motion of Mr. R. O. George A. Drummond, Vice-President, the meeting was unanimously voted in the absence of the President, Right Hon. Lord Strath Mount Royal.

On motion of Mr. C. J. Fleet, K.C., seconded by Mr. H. C. J. Fleet, K.C., the gentlemen were appointed scrutineers: Messrs. F. K.C., and Mr. G. F. C. that Mr. James Aird be the meeting."

DIRECTORS' REPORT. The report of the Directors, Shareholders, at their eighth annual meeting.

Capital Stock ..... Rest ..... Balance of Profits carried forward ..... Unclaimed Dividends ..... Half-yearly dividends, payable, 1904

Notes of the Bank in circulation ..... Deposits not bearing interest ..... Deposits bearing interest ..... Balances due to other Banks

Gold and silver coin currency ..... Government demand notes ..... Deposits with Dominion Government by Parliament general bank note circulation by agencies of this Bank and other banks in Great Britain ..... Due by agencies of this Bank and other banks in foreign countries ..... Call and short loans in Great Britain and United States

Dominion and Provincial securities ..... Railway and other bonds and stocks ..... Notes and Cheques of other Banks

Bank Premises at Montreal ..... Current Loans and discounts and elsewhere (rebate included) and other assets ..... Debts secured by mortgages and other securities ..... Overdue debts not specially provided for

Bank of Montreal, Montreal, 31st Oct.

THE GENERAL MANAGER follows: Referring to the statement before you, the principal compared with last year's increase in the deposit base of \$13,265,000, in the of \$9,143,000, in the current of \$8,699,000, and a decrease balance due by our own and other banks outside Canada 114,000.

There is nothing that calls special remark in connection with these amounts, except the case of the loans and deposits amount of the increase temporary nature and will

BANK OF MONTREAL

Proceedings at Eighty-Seventh Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

A SATISFACTORY REPORT.

Past Year has been Prosperous One for Dominion—Election of Directors.

The eighty-seventh annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Montreal was held in the Board Room of the institution at noon on the 5th instant.

There were present: Hon Sir George A. Drummond, K.C.M.G., Vice-President; Sir William C. Macdonald, R. G. Reid, Hon Robert Mackay, Messrs. G. F. C. Smith, George Durnford, James Skeoch, Henry Dobell, C. J. Fleet, K.C., George Filer, Henry Morton, R. B. Angus, M. S. Foley, B. A. Boas, F. S. Lyman, K. C., Angus W. Hooper, Percy R. Gault, Thomas Irving, J. Scott and John Morrison.

On motion of Mr. R. G. Reid, Sir George A. Drummond, Vice-President, was unanimously voted to the chair, in the absence of the President, the Right Hon. Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal.

On motion of Mr. C. J. Fleet, K. C., seconded by Mr. Henry Dobell, it was agreed: "That the following gentlemen be appointed to act as scrutineers: Messrs. F. S. Lyman, K.C., and Mr. G. F. C. Smith, and that Mr. James Aird be secretary of the meeting."

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

The report of the Directors to the Shareholders, at their eighty-seventh

annual general meeting, was then read by Mr. E. S. Clouston, General Manager, as follows: The Directors have pleasure in presenting the report, showing the result of the Bank's business for the year ended 31st October, 1904:

Balance of profit and Loss Account, 31st October, 1903 ... \$ 373,988.06 Profits for the year ended 31st October, 1904, after deducting charges of management, and making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts... 1,609,207.95

Dividend 5 per cent. paid 1st of June 1904 ... \$700,000.00 Dividend 5 per cent., payable 1st December, 1904. 700,000.00

Balance of Profit and Loss carried forward \$ 583,196.01 Since the last annual meeting of the Shareholders, a branch of the Bank has been opened at Portage la Prairie, Man., and sub-agencies at Armstrong and Kelowna, B.C., and Apinewa avenue, (Montreal), and Westmount. Sub-agencies at Hochelega (Montreal), Enderby, B.C., and two at Winnipeg have been arranged for, and will be opened shortly.

The reconstruction of the headquarters building on St. James street is now proceeding, and will be completed in a few months.

All the offices of the Bank, including the Head Office, have been inspected during the past year.

STRATHCONA AND MOUNT ROYAL President.

Bank of Montreal, Head Office, 31st October, 1904.

THE GENERAL STATEMENT.

Table with columns for Capital Stock, Rest, Balance of Profits carried forward, Unclaimed Dividends, Half-yearly dividends, Notes of the Bank in circulation, Deposits not bearing interest, Deposits bearing interest, Balances due to other Banks in Canada, Liabilities, Assets, and various sub-items like Gold and silver coin current, Government demand notes, etc.

Table with columns for Assets, including Gold and silver coin current, Government demand notes, Deposit with Dominion Government, Bank Premises at Montreal and Branches, Current Loans and discounts in Canada, Debts secured by mortgage and otherwise, and Overdue debts not specially secured.

Bank of Montreal, Montreal, 31st October, 1904.

THE GENERAL MANAGER.

The General Manager then spoke as follows:

Referring to the statement laid before you, the principal changes as compared with last year are, an increase in the deposit bearing interest of \$13,265,000, in the call loans of \$9,143,000, in the current loans of \$6,699,000, and a decrease in the balance due by our own agencies and other banks outside Canada of \$4,114,000.

There is nothing that calls for any special remark in connection with these amounts, except that in the case of the loans and deposits a certain amount of the increase is of a temporary nature and will disappear

shortly, but there will still be a sufficient amount to show that our business is steadily progressing. The diminution in our profits is largely accounted for by the low rate of interest ruling in the foreign markets, where we have to loan most of the money we desire to hold readily available. I saw a statement the other day, that in New York not in a quarter of a century has money loaned so low as it did a portion of this autumn.

On the whole, it may be said that the past year has been a prosperous one for Canada, though there have been special industries which did not participate. Lumber markets have been very disappointing,

and the prices for daily products unsatisfactory. Certain industrialists have suffered from foreign competition, but on the other hand, some of our important industries are now reviving under more expert and intelligent management.

The trade of the past year, both domestic and foreign, has been well maintained. Domestic trade shows a slight increase, while foreign trade, omitting specie, reached a value of \$454,642,000, as compared with \$450,040,000 in 1903. One feature of foreign trade may be noted. Exports of domestic products declined in value \$16,000,000, while imports for consumption rose \$18,776,000, making a loss in balance of trade of nearly \$35,000,000 from the preceding year.

In the seven year period, 1896-1902, inclusive, the very exceptional condition existed of an excess of domestic exports over imports for consumption, the actual balance in favor of Canada in this period having been \$1,428,000; but in the last two years the condition has changed, and since 1902 imports have outrun domestic exports by \$55,600,000. In itself this excess may be of small concern. It has probably been much more than overcome by the introduction of capital brought by an increasing volume of immigration, by investments of foreign capital, largely from the United States, in our virgin lands, water powers, forests, and in many other ways.

While the evidences of progress are, as already said, most marked in our western territories, the rest of the Dominion has not been standing still. One feature is noteworthy, the number of new manufacturing enterprises springing up all over the country; some of them are essentially Canadian, others are branches of important American industries. It is impossible to give data, even approximately correct, of their extent or number, but I hold in my hand a list of over thirty in Ontario and Quebec, and may say that for three only in this city and neighborhood, sites have been secured averaging about fifty acres each.

OLDER PROVINCES.

Of trade in general I submit the following brief summary, which, taken in conjunction with the remarks of the General Manager, may be useful:

DRY GOODS—A fairly good year's business, the woollen industry somewhat better, collections good. LUMBER—Not so good; the production this year will be reduced, and better prices expected.

PROVISIONS—The export of bacon shows large increase, and considerable quantity of provisions is going to South Africa. LIVE STOCK—Exports show large decline, prices of cattle being very low.

LEATHER—Good year's business at fair prices. BOOTS AND SHOES—A very unsatisfactory year, consequent on labor troubles and high prices of material.

GROCERIES—Business reported good and fairly profitable; the farmers reported prosperous everywhere. DAIRY PRODUCE—Cheese has been disappointing, but butter has been satisfactory; upon the whole fairly good.

The grain trade of the port shows a marked falling off. The hay crop of this province has been exceptionally good, and exports fetched remunerative prices. IRON AND HARDWARE—Not so good as last year, which was phenomenal.

The construction of another line of railway across the continent, about to be undertaken for the Grand Trunk Railway Company, is an event of the utmost importance. TRADE OF THE PORT.

The steamship lines have suffered from various causes, the reaction due to the close of the South African war, and the keen competition in rates inaugurated by the continental lines, which largely reduced earnings. This warfare is believed to be over. The import trade and the passenger business to this port have been up to the average in volume. The exports of grain and timber show a reduction of one-third to one-half.

The inland craft coming to this port show a heavy decline.

reaches an extent considerably exceeding the total area of the Empire of Germany, while referring to the much larger extent to the north of the fifty-fifth parallel he says: "What proportion of these vast districts will be capable of the profitable growing of crops is as yet a matter of conjecture."

You are all aware, of course, that the isothermal lines do not necessarily coincide with the parallels of latitude, and these latter only approximately denote the climate, but the fact of the production of the finest qualities of wheat in our territory, as above defined, is established beyond question. You will be able to form some estimate of the possibilities of the future, when I add that as yet less than 4 per cent. of this land has been brought under crop. It is worthy of note, also, that the yield per acre in Manitoba and the Territories exceeds that of every one of the North-Western states of the American Union, Montana alone excepted.

Striking proofs of progress in this part of the Dominion are everywhere visible. The population of Manitoba and the Territories, which in 1901 was 422,000, became in 1904 870,000.

The homestead entries, which in 1901 numbered 8,157, and represented 1,305,120 acres taken up for cultivation, had, in 1904, reached the number of 31,383, and covered an acreage of 5,021,291; and to this may be added land sold for settlement by companies, bringing the total up to 9,887,501 acres.

The number of immigrants, which ten years ago, in 1895, was 25,788, and for years made little progress over this figure, last year reached 130,329, and is believed during the present year to have largely exceeded that number; but statistics are not yet attainable.

While the evidences of progress are, as already said, most marked in our western territories, the rest of the Dominion has not been standing still. One feature is noteworthy, the number of new manufacturing enterprises springing up all over the country; some of them are essentially Canadian, others are branches of important American industries. It is impossible to give data, even approximately correct, of their extent or number, but I hold in my hand a list of over thirty in Ontario and Quebec, and may say that for three only in this city and neighborhood, sites have been secured averaging about fifty acres each.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REMARKS.

The vice-president, in moving the adoption of the Director's report, said: The statements submitted by the General Manager and in the Director's report, so fully place before you the position of the Bank that it is unnecessary that I should trespass on your patience for more than a few moments with some general remarks.

The handsome and commodious premises in which we are now assembled, and which are now close to completion, have, I am sure, met with your approval as furnishing a worthy and convenient home for the headquarters of the Bank for many years to come.

The General Manager has referred to one cause of diminished profits, to which may be added the fact that to earn dividends now-a-days a much larger volume of business must be done, though that is only another way of stating the great reduction in the rates of money, and in the charge for banking services which has been going on.

I may again draw your attention to the fact that in 1847, when the Bank first occupied the premises on this site, its total assets amounted to \$7,110,000, and this year they reach \$131,160,000.

In reviewing the general condition of the country, it may be noted that the Stock Exchange, reflecting as it does the views of investors, has apparently entered on a period of revival; securities have now a higher range of value and confidence in the lasting character of this improvement appears to be spreading.

It is evident that any marked increase in immigration, or in the production of cereals, must come from the North-West. We have there an immense territory, of which the area stated in figures conveys no adequate idea; but taking only that portion to the south of the fifty-fifth parallel of latitude, which, as you know, passes through the north of England, the Government expert estimates that the portion "suitable for cultivation" in Manitoba, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and Alberta, that is from Manitoba to the mountains,

Ship-owners, however, look for better trade next season.

It ought to be noted that importers complain that, considering higher freights and insurance and port charges in the St. Lawrence, as compared with Atlantic ports, there is little inducement to bring goods this way.

The prompt completion of the long-talked-about harbor improvements, with modern facilities for handling goods, the reform of the pilotage and improvement of lighting, are urgently called for, if the advantages due to our geographical position are to yield their due results. In this connection, a point of interest is the announcement of the construction of one or more ice-breaking steamers. About these comparatively little is known, but any experiment bearing on the prolongation of the season of navigation, if seriously entered on, will be watched with an interest commensurate with its importance to the country.

The continuance of the sanguinary struggle in the Far East is, of course, a menace to the general prosperity, but as regards our own country, surveying the whole field, I can see no reason to doubt that, given normal conditions and favorable weather, we are about to enter upon a prosperous year.

I beg in accordance with custom to move:

"That the report of the Directors, now read, be adopted and printed for distribution among the shareholders."

The motion was seconded by Mr. R. B. Angus, and after some remarks by Mr. John Morrison, it was unanimously adopted.

Mr. B. A. Boas moved:

"That the thanks of the meeting be presented to the President, Vice-President and Directors for their attention to the interests of the Bank."

This was seconded by Mr. George Durnford, and was unanimously carried in.

The Vice-President having acknowledged the compliment, Hon. Robert Mackay moved:

"That the thanks of this meeting be given to the General Manager, the Assistant General Manager, the Inspector, the Managers and other officers of the Bank, for their services during the year."

This was seconded by Mr. R. G. Reid and unanimously carried, the General Manager acknowledging the same.

Mr. Angus W. Hooper moved, seconded by Mr. James Skeoch: "That the ballot now open for the election of directors, be kept open until 2 o'clock, unless 15 minutes elapse without a vote being cast, when it shall be closed, and until that time, and for that purpose only, this meeting be continued."

This was unanimously concurred in. THE DIRECTORS.

The ballot resulted in the election of the following Directors:

- R. B. ANGUS. HON. SIR GEORGE DRUMMOND, K.C.M.G. EDWARD B. GREENSHIELDS. SIR WILLIAM C. MACDONALD. HON. ROBERT MACKAY. ALEXANDER T. PATERSON. ROBERT G. REID. JAMES ROSS. THE RIGHT HON. LORD STRATHCONA AND MOUNT ROYAL, G. C. M. G.

Newfoundland Correspondence.

The Reid Newfoundland Company placed their private car Terra Nova, at the disposal of His Grace Archbishop Howley, as well as special assistants to wait on His Grace during his trip across the country en route to Rome, via Halifax, N.S. The Archbishop thanked the Messrs. Reid for their great kindness.

The collection for the Christian Brothers amounted to \$2826, the largest since their inception to St. John's. This year's collection was nearly \$400 more than last year's. The Community of Mount St. Francis now number twelve members. They teach nearly 800 boys in St. Patrick's and Holy Cross schools, and also a night school at St. Vincent's Hall.

Hon. E. M. Jackman, Minister of Finance, recently stated that it is the intention of the Government to increase the educational grant by \$70,000. Four years ago, when the Bond Government came into power, the grant was \$155,000. During that time it was increased \$41,000, and stands to-day at \$196,000, and with the increase will show \$266,000, or two-thirds more than it was in 1900. This news causes general satisfaction throughout the colony, and adds new laurels to the wise administration of the Bond regime.

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French-American specialist, Dr. Edwin Turnbull, by which you can cure yourself of any Uric Acid disease in a short time in your own home and save the necessity of an operation and the expense of doctors and druggists. Send for it if you have Bright's disease, diabetes, dropsy, gravel, weak back, stone, in the bladder, enlarged prostate, frequent desire to urinate, pains in the back, legs, sides and over the kidneys, swelling of the feet and ankles, retention of urine, wetting of the bed, or such rheumatic affections as chronic muscular or inflammatory rheumatism, sciatica, rheumatic neuralgia, lumbago, gout, etc. It will promptly remove every trace of uric acid poisons and its complications, stop all aches, pains and swellings, strengthen the kidneys and the bladder so that they will become normal again, and so revitalize and build up the entire constitution as to make you feel as healthy and strong as in your prime.

It did this for legions of others, among them such well known persons as Archibald Ritchie, Mt. Forest, Ont., Mrs. Wella Bamford, Wolf Island, St. Lawrence, Ont., Ashie Rowe, Franklin, Ont., Geo. W. J. Cooper, Chatham, N.B., H. Reynolds, Norham, Ont., Mr. T. P. Cassefort, Collingwood, Ont., and it will surely do it for you. Write to the Turnbull Medical Co., 232 Bush Temple, Chicago, Ill., and since every free treatment is accompanied by a 68 page illustrated book setting fully into all the details and no duty is involved, it behooves you to send your name and address promptly for these free offerings. Do so to-day sure, for you cannot justly say you are incurable until you have tried this really remarkable treatment, and as neither money nor even stamps are asked for, you should certainly make a free trial of it at once.

The Virginia Lake, a steamer under the command of Captain Parsons, arrived lately from the Labrador coast, after having met fearful weather. Snow storms, with very heavy frost, prevailed, and in the valleys and gulches along the Labrador shore coast, as high as 80 feet of snow filled them.

Newfoundland fishermen are noted for their bravery, courage and self-sacrifice in time of danger. A few days ago, a captain was lashed to the wheel of his little vessel for 40 hours, and during that time, without a morsel of food, and with the waves dashing over him, he stood his ground nobly until he reached a haven, and thus saved the lives of twelve men and two women, who were passengers at the time. A n.e. gale which swept the whole island lasted for three days without intermission.

The Nova Scotia Company at Bell Island will put out 100,000 tons of iron ore for Sydney alone this season. They have sent a large supply to Rotterdam also. Next year a greater supply will be handled, as several alterations will be made at the pier and the pockets for the Wabana mines.

THE JAPANESE ARTIST.

A party of travellers, journeying through Japan a few years ago, came upon an old artist in ivory. Among the carvings which he showed was one most exquisite piece for which he asked a hundred dollars, the price was not at all high for the work, and one of the party at once agreed to take it. Before surrendering it, however, the artist examined it minutely, and the result of the examination was the discovery of a tiny imperfection which he pointed out.

"That will make no difference," the traveller answered. "No one but you would ever have discovered it; it need make no difference in the price."

"It is not a matter of price," the artist replied proudly. "No imperfect work ever goes from me at any price. I cannot sell you this."

The traveller, incredulous, urged again the plea that none but the artist's eye could ever see the blemish, he was offered a higher price still, but to all his arguments the old artist had but one reply—he could not give his name to imperfect work—it was impossible. And from this decision nothing could move him. How the spirit of the heathen artist rebukes us! Nothing was allowed to go from his shop that was not the best that he and those working with him could do, but we—what poor, half-hearted, shabby work allow to bear the Master's name!

GENERAL ITEMS OF INTEREST AROUND THE CITY.

The Forty Hours' devotion opened at St. Ann's Church last Friday morning and closed on Sunday after High Mass.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Hibernal, Division No. 2, held a very successful euchre party in St. Gabriel's Hall on last Monday evening.

Hon. Rodolphe Laméux, Solicitor General of the Dominion, was banqueted on Saturday evening at the Reform Club rooms on University street.

The euchre party held at the Brothers' Hall, corner Rachel and Sanguinet streets, on Tuesday evening, in aid of the building fund of St. Anges' Church, was quite successful.

On the feast of the Immaculate Conception the patients of the Blessed Virgin's ward of the Hotel Dieu were given a treat by the Sisters in charge of the ward. This took the form of a dinner to which only the medical faculty and their friends were invited.

St. Bridget's Night Refuge reports: For the week ending Saturday, 10th Dec., the following had a night's lodging and breakfast: Irish 250, French 107, English 81, other nationalities, 16. Total, 404. Men can be had for attending funerals or any other work by calling up Main 2019.

The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council has sanctioned a decree annexing the following portions of Ste. Cumeconde to St. Leo. The territory bounded as follows: On the south by the Canadian Pacific Railway track, on the west by the limits of the municipality of Westmount, on the north by a line passing in the centre of Dorchester street, and the limits of the said municipality of Westmount to Edgell street, on the east by a line passing in the middle of Edgell street, from Dorchester street to the Canadian Pacific Railway track.

Right Rev. Mgr. Archambault, Bishop of Joliette, held an ordination service Monday morning in the chapel of the Sisters of Mercy, Dorchester street, when Rev. Pierre Roy, of Hochelaga, a professor of the Normal School of this city, was raised to the priesthood, Mr. Williams, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was made a deacon, Mr. Cousineau, of Ottawa, was made sub-deacon, and the tonsure and minor orders were received by Mr. Junker, of St. Boniface, Rev. Fathers Nantel and Dubuc, honorary canons, assisted Bishop Archambault.

MEETING OF A. O. H.

Friday evening last, the regular fortnightly meeting of No. 2 Division A.O.H., took place in their hall, Centre street, Point St. Charles. After the transaction of the regular business of the meeting, a friendly game of euchre was indulged in between the members of No. 2 and the Hibernal Knights, thus passing a very pleasant evening.

Catholic Order of Foresters.

Loyola Court, No. 1461, C.O.F., held a well attended meeting in the Raby Hall, Monday evening, when the following officers were elected: S. J. O'Neil, Chief Ranger; J. Mahoney, V.C.R.; J. J. Gethings, P.C.R.; M. J. Gahan, Rec. Sec.; C. A. Fairfield, Fin. Sec.; W. A. McCallum, Treasurer; Wm. Donohue, W. P. Geraghty and Jas. McGeever, Trustees; Dr. W. H. Donnelly, physician; Rev. T. F. Heffernan, Spiritual Director.

ST. MARY'S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY

The 8th instant saw the first meeting for the purpose of the re-organization of the above society. About thirty-five or forty members presented themselves for admission. Words of encouragement were lavishly given the young men by Rev. Fathers Brady, McDonald and Cullinan, as also from the well-known friend of all young people, Mr. Du-gald McDonald, from Mount Royal Vale.

New Franciscan Monthly

On January 1st, 1905, will appear the first number of The Franciscan Review and St. Anthony's Record, a magazine, for lovers of St. Francis and St. Anthony, under the direction of the Franciscan Fa-

thers, 1222 Dorchester street, Montreal. Contents: Franciscan Literature and Interests; Religious Topics; Prie-dieu Thoughts; Third Order Notes and News; St. Anthony's Corner; Franciscan Cameos; Flotsam and Jetsam; Chronicle; Our Bookshelf. Yearly subscription, 50 cents. Manager, Mr. Robert Warren, 28 Brunswick street, Montreal.

ABBE LEPAILLEUR HONORED

The parishioners of the Church of St. Louis du Mile End honored their pastor last week on the occasion of his being appointed honorary canon of St. James Cathedral. An address and purse were presented by the children, and a similar offering was made by the senior members of the congregation.

An Evening with the Habitant

The evening of the 13th inst. witnessed one of those pleasing social gatherings which do so much to keep alive the grand spirit of the beautiful among those whose privilege it is to come in contact with them, when Karn Hall was well filled to assist at one of those entertainments given by Mr. J. S. McCarry, in which he so graphically describes the life and customs of our friend the Habitant. The musical portion of the programme was carried out by Mr. Jos. Saucier, baritone, and Mr. J. B. Dubois, cellist, who did much to delight and entertain those present. In every detail the evening was a charming one, and too much praise cannot be given to our talented entertainers for the way in which they performed their respective parts.

Defrauded of their Wages

To the Editor of the True Witness: Sir,—I beg leave to put the following statement before you for consideration, and, if possible, kindly use your best endeavor to have something done to put a stop to such a scandal. I know quite a lot of men who have been working in the lumber camps in Maine and Northern New York who have worked from two months to ten weeks and did not get one cent for the time they worked. The sub-contractor skipped and left the men to starve or beg, whichever they pleased to do. This statement can be proven by reliable witnesses. I took pains to enquire into the matter and found their story to be correct. I am glad to say that, with few exceptions, Canada has none of those sharks, defrauding the poor working man.

ONE WHO KNOWS.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

ST. JEAN BAPTISTE. Before Grand Mass the blessing of five beautiful statues destined to ornament the different side altars took place, viz: The Immaculate Conception, the Sacred Heart, St. Ann, St. Anthony and St. Joseph. Grand Mass was sung by the Rev. Father de Lamirande, assisted by Rev. Fathers Pare and Dufort, as deacon and sub-deacon. The musical portion of the services was plain chant, with a full orchestra. The sermon was preached by Rev. Father Auclair, P.P., on the feast of the day, and was a series of proofs of the authenticity of the feast taken from the Bible, Fathers of the Church, Doctors and Universities, and confirmed by the apparition at Lourdes. At 3 p.m. solemn Vespers and Benediction were sung. At 7.15 p.m. there was a grand reception into the Children of Mary, sermon by Rev. Father Meloche, S.J., and solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The day's events were brought to a close by a grand illumination of the church, priests' residence and several private houses throughout the parish.

ST. LOUIS DE FRANCE.

Grand Mass was sung at 10 o'clock by the Rev. Father L. Boissonault, assisted by Rev. Father Melancon as deacon, and Rev. Father Geoffron as sub-deacon. About 4000 people approached Holy Communion. The choir, under the direction of Mr. A. Clerck, rendered a harmonized plain chant Mass with good effect. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Bryant, Dominican. At 3 p.m. took place the closing of the ladies' triduum, as also the reception of a large number of young ladies into the Sodality of the Children of Mary, closing by a solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. At 7.30 the men's Triduum was brought to a close by a grand sermon on the Immaculate Conception, given by Rev. Father Mondru, Dom. The illuminations and

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interior decorations of the church were of a superior order, and reflect much credit upon the artistic taste and practical knowledge of the Rev. Father Provost, under whose personal supervision they were carried out.

OBITUARY.

REVEREND MOTHER MARY MARGARET.

On Monday, the 5th Dec., the funeral of the Rev. Mother Mary Margaret took place from the mother house of the Sisters of the Holy Names, at Hochelaga. The Requiem Mass was sung by the Chaplain, the Rev. Abbe J. A. Boucher, and the Rev. Fathers Christopher and Ethelbert, Franciscans, served as deacon and sub-deacon. In the sanctuary were the Very Rev. Father Colomban, Superior of the Franciscan Order, Rev. F. L. T. Adam, cure of the Sacred Heart parish; Rev. D. Chevrier, S.S., and Rev. Abbe H. Charpentier. Amongst the relatives present were her two first cousins, who are nuns of the Congregation Community. The cortege was accompanied by the Rev. Mother Superior and many nuns, and several priests.

A Libera was sung in the Linguistic Convent Chapel, where Mother Mary Margaret made her first Communion, 60 years ago, and made all her vows. In 1859 she went with the first missionaries to Oregon Territory, at the request of the saintly and noble Bishop Blanchet, where she remained 36 years, and was Provincial many years. On her return here in 1895, she was chosen Provincial Superior for the State of New York, which position she filled until last year, when she reluctantly withdrew from active work owing to ill health. Mother Mary Margaret was noted for her great piety, from her childhood. She had an elder sister, Mary Francis of Assisi, belonging to the same Order, who died in Oregon. She was a sister to Mr. John O'Neill, and Mrs. Doody, of Montreal.

THE LATE FATHER DOWD

Next Monday will be the twelfth anniversary of the death of the lamented Father Dowd. It seems but yesterday that he walked among us, with his happy word and kindly smile for every one, yet twelve years have passed since he fell into his dreamless sleep. Let those who remember his work try to assist at Mass on that day that he may enjoy the sweet rest promised to those who have so faithfully served the Master.

Requiem Mass.

On Monday morning a solemn Requiem Mass was offered up at St. Patrick's Church for the late Mrs. Mary Celestine Fitzmaurice, mother of Rev. Father Christopher, O.F.M., of the Franciscan Monastery. Very Rev. Father Colomban, O.F.M., Prior of the Monastery, officiated, assisted by two Franciscans as deacon and sub-deacon. In the sanctuary were several of the Franciscan Fathers and the priests of St. Patrick's. The church was draped for the occasion. The choir rendered the "Messe de Requiem," by Abbe Perreault. A large congregation assisted, including the male and female English members of the Third Order of St. Francis.

Requiem for Manchester Martyrs

A Requiem High Mass for the repose of the souls of the Manchester Martyrs was celebrated in the Church of St. Anne's, Underwood street, London, and was attended by a crowded congregation of Irish Nationalists from all parts of London. Contingents from the various branches of the United Irish League assembled about an hour previously on the Tower Hill—itsself the scene of the executions of many Irish Catholic martyrs at the time of the Reformation—and a procession numbering many hundreds, headed by the St. Anne's, Bermondsey, and Commercial road bands, and bearing several handsome banners, marched to the church. The procession presented a most impressive spectacle, and aroused great interest along the thoroughfares en route. The Mass was celebrated by Father Murphy, a great-grand-nephew of Father John Murphy, of '98 fame. Subsequently

RAILROADS. CANADIAN PACIFIC CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAY EXCURSION AT ONEWAY FIRST-CLASS FARE.

Dec. 24th, 25th and 26th, 1904, good to return until Dec. 27th, 1904, and on Dec. 31st, 1904, January 1st and 2nd, 1905, good to return until Jan. 3rd, 1905.

One Way First-Class Fare and One-Third Dec. 23, 24, 25 and 26, and Dec. 30, 31st, 1904, and Jan. 1st and 2nd, 1905, good to return until Jan. 4, 1905.

Special fares to points in Maritime Provinces.

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Quebec, \$4.50 Toronto, \$10.00 Sherbrooke, \$3.35 Hamilton, \$10.65 Ottawa, \$3.50 London, \$12.95 Detroit, \$5.00 Pt. Huron, \$14.85

And all other points in Canada, also Massena Springs, N.Y., and intermediate stations, and return at SINGLE FIRST CLASS FARE

Going Dec. 24, 25 and 26. Return limit Dec. 27, 1904.

Also going Dec. 31, 1904, Jan. 1 and 2, 1905. Return limit Jan. 3, 1905.

First-Class Fare and One-Third, Going Dec. 23, 24, 25, 26, 30, 31, 1904, and Jan. 1 and 2, 1905. Return limit Jan. 4, 1905.

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a meeting was held in St. Anne's Hall, at which Father Murphy presided, and a number of speeches were delivered by prominent Nationalists, after which the procession returned to Tower Hill, where the contingents dispersed.

FREEMASONS AS SPIES.

More Revelations of their Employment Against Catholics in the French Army.

The system of informing in the French army discovered by the Nationalist deputies and journalists is still being used as a stick for the punishment of M. Combes, whose Cabinet is in a sorry plight than it has ever been before. "Fiches," or sheafs of paper written out by Freemasons, are still published daily, and in one of them some tale-bearing is revealed about an officer with a thoroughly Irish name, to wit, Lieutenant O'Gorman, of the Thirtieth Artillery Regiment. Lieutenant O'Gorman is charged by a Freemason spy named Bourguel with having, together with Colonel Delpit, Major Benoit, and Captain de Verchere, all of his regiment, taken part in a Corpus Christi procession at Orleans in 1902. Not only that, but Lieutenant O'Gorman and his brother officers joined in the singing of the magnificent hymn, "Lauda Sion Salvatorem." The scandalized Freemason notes that the officers offered an singular spectacle, and that they sang de tout coeur. The truly eminent Bourguel, who is a Government clerk at Orleans, in his additional reports to "Brother" Vadecard, the head Mason in Paris, puts black marks against Major Denis, of the 20th Artillery, who goes to Mass, and who during the Dreyfus case said that daylight ought to have been let through the bodies of Picquart and Reinach. Bourguel also notes that he proposes to track the Marist Fathers of Orleans, in spite of the "good" Press which will fire off "rotten pears" at him, which he does not mind, since his "skull became harder and balder."

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THOMAS LIGGET EMPIRE BUILDING, 2474 & 2476 St. Catherine St.

S. CARSLY Co. LIMITED HALF PRICE SALE OF LADIES' WINTER JACKETS

It's Coat buying time, and hundreds of astute ladies are choosing the greatest bargains of the year at this unprecedented sale. Not one garment is priced at more than half the amount required but a few weeks ago. It is well nigh impossible to form a conception of all the style attributes these magnificent Coats possess, the wonderful quality of the materials, and the splendid workmanship involved. Above all, the Price Reductions are Simply Unparalleled. Half price for hundreds of these Coats, and every one represents the cream of the season's style, the sum of the greatest possible perfection in this important article of ladies' apparel. Ladies will not fail to NOTE THE ORIGINAL PRIZE TICKETS, which have been allowed to remain on each garment, side by side with the Special Sale index.

RIBBONS FOR FANCY WORK AT VERY LOW PRICES

Ribbons, 1 to 1 1/2 in. wide, satin on both sides, all colors. Regular 5c. For 2c. Another lot of same quality, 1 1/2 to 2 in. wide. Regular 7 1/2c. For 5c. Still another lot, 2 1/2 to 3 inches wide. Worth 12c. For 9c.

LADIES' HOSE.

Plain Cashmere Hose, with embroidered points, fast dye. Prices 29c to 61c per pair. Heavy Ribbed Black Cashmere Hose, spliced heels and toes, fast dye. Special 38c Or 3 prs. for \$1.00

BLOUSE LENGTHS IN SILK THE LATEST NOVELTY

Just arrived from our Paris Office, a small shipment of rare novelties in Handsomely Embroidered Silk, specially adapted for presentation and suitable for special social functions. They come in pink, blue, white, cream, also black and white and plain black, a most superb novelty for Silk Waists. Regular \$5.00 values. Special price \$3.75 Each length neatly boxed.

\$1.00 French Kid Gloves 69c

This special offer is possible through the efforts of our Paris Office in securing a liberal price concession from a maker who was anxious to start business relations with this company. There's 125 dozen Ladies' French Kid Gloves, first quality kid skins, in the latest colorings, 2 dome fasteners, a reliable \$1.00 Kid Glove. Special price 69c Half a dozen pairs of these Gloves in a pretty box make a welcome Xmas gift.

A Brilliant Array in Toyland

TOYS—the magic word that brings a smile to the little faces and a thrill of pleasure to the young hearts. In our great basement Toy section you will find Montreal's greatest and most complete gathering of Toys, and there's not a single article that does not represent a distinct and sharply defined money saving. Some specials for holiday shoppers: BALKING DONKEY. A comical Donkey, with Clown, moves backward and forward. Special 30c DOLLS' CRADLES. White Enamel Cradles, strongly made, with pretty gilt knobs, neatly finished. Special 19c

THE S. CARSLY Co. LIMITED 1765 to 1783 Notre Dame St., 184 to 194 St. James St., Montreal

The John Murphy Co., LIMITED HANDSOME CHRISTMAS GIFTS

At 33 1/2 p.c. less than usual prices. A chance to clear out a manufacturer's samples came to us at the right time and in the right class of goods to enable us to offer the public an opportunity to buy handsome Christmas Gifts at fully one-third less than usual prices. It would be difficult to find articles better suited for presentation purposes or more likely to be appreciated. The assortment consists of two lots, in French Stag Horn and Celluloid, as follows: TOILET SETS, Shaving Sets, Smoking Sets, Collar and Cuff Boxes, Necktie Boxes, Manicure Sets, Work Boxes, Photo Boxes, Glove and Handkerchief Sets, Albums, Smoking Stands, Cigar Boxes, etc.

USEFUL CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Dress Lengths, Blouse Lengths in Silk and Fancy Fannels, Handsome Cushions, Elderdown Comforters, Renaissance Table Cloths, Centre-pieces, etc.

Big Reductions in Trimmed Millinery.

Our Millinery Department is offering lines of beautifully Trimmed Hats for the holiday season at exceptionally tempting figures. Don't fail to see them. THE JOHN MURPHY COMPANY, 2341 & 2343 St. Catherine St. Corner Metcalfe. Terms Cash. Tel. Up 2740



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Opening of the Congress in Rome Jubilee.

The Pope has, from the beginning of his Pontificate, summing up all things in Christ. Amongst the first of the things he thought of to this end in the Brief that he addressed to the Cardinal Presidents of the Holy See for the public celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Immaculate Conception was devotion to the Mother of God. Such was the beginning of the jubilee which he addressed to the Holy See, and which he addressed to the Holy See, and which he addressed to the Holy See.

The place of assembly was the Church of the Twelve Apostles. In one of the most central parts of the city. The church presented an unusual appearance. One of the central nave, under the shadow of one of the great series of benches, rising from the other until they culminated in a central bench, was built and occupied by the Presidents of the Holy See, instead of facing the altar in the apse of the church. Behind the altar a great white drapery which hangs above a throne from the vaulted ceiling, with dark purple velvet at gold lace, formed a background for the altar. In the centre of the altar a picture of the Immaculate Conception is placed, and a head twelve double electric candles crown and stars the head of the Woman seen in the Apocalypse.

near to the speakers were the members of the press and foreign. These were numerous, and their presence had played the widespread interest in the Catholic world at least since that concern religion. The members of the press represented were the O'Romano, the official organ of the Vatican; the Civiltà Cattolica, the official organ of the Jesuits published fortnightly in Rome, and thirteen Italian newspapers, from the front of the country. Besides these, there were other newspapers, such as the Ayres, and the Univers, and of Paris; the XX Siecle, of the Kolnische Volkszeitung; the Westfalischer Merkur; the Westfalisches Volksblatt; the Vienna; the Liberté, of the Freeman's Journal, of the Sun, of Baltimore; the Herald of India; the Tablet, London; the Gazette was Antwerp; the New York Journal; the Volksblatt, of the Luxemburger Wort, of Burg, etc., etc.

Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli, and no less than twelve cardinals were present. Nowhere in Rome could such a gathering of Princes of the Church be seen since the presiding Cardinal, Eminence Mariano Rampolla, and in the bench on the floor beneath the mosaic Tripepi, Casali del Dracolla, Italiani, Martinelli, Adorni, and Gennari sat, a crimson arrayed members of the hierarchy of the Church. Behind them were the Archbishops, and Bishops, representing the beneficence of the Church in the ways of its charitable works.

Amongst these were the representatives of the Governments according to the Holy See. That of the Government of France was completely absent. In every public ceremony