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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION. If the English-speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they would soon make of the 'True Witness' one of the most prosperous and general Catholic papers in this country.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

CHICAGO CATASTROPHE. It seems almost late to comment upon the fatal fire in the Iroquois Theatre, Chicago, which on the 30th December last, made over six hundred victims.

In the first place, a theatre is always exposed to fire. A theatre is more or less crowded on every public occasion. The danger generally comes from the stage, where the inflammable scenery, the lighting appliances, and all the paraphernalia needed for the exhibition present a perpetual menace.

We have laws and regulations regarding the safety of public buildings; but as a rule, it is only when some terrific events like the Chicago catastrophe startles people into life that any attention is paid to those laws and regulations.

That which affected us the most in the story of the fearful death list on that fatal afternoon in Chicago, was the inhumanity of the strong whom we have pictured as crushing the weak and trampling down even the infant in a mad fury to escape impending death.

awful the danger the more significant the unbridled fury of the fear-stricken people. It is thus that we see our human nature in its darkest aspect.

Happy this does not apply generally; in fact, we are told of many acts of true heroism performed, and of many a noble self-sacrifice made in that hour of trial.

No more sublime picture than that of the priests standing in the midst of the dead and the dying, and pronouncing over those whose eyes were closing to this world, the consoling words of the absolution.

JANUARY INTENTION. 'Confidence in God' is 'the general intention for January named and blessed by the Sovereign Pontiff.'

God's Love. If we are confident, in the proper sense, we cannot be presumptuous—for the terms are contradictory.

Each month of the year has its special intentions, and these are selected with wisdom by the Church, and, if we study them carefully, we will find that they take in all the most important phases of our individual lives, as well as all the most important needs of God's Church on earth.

Hence it is that we begin the year's intentions with that of 'Confidence in God.'

A PLEA FOR FIREMEN.—Proverbially fire and water are antagonistic, and both are looked upon as great enemies of life and property.

When such periods come, we awaken in the morning to read accounts of the fearful struggles between the firemen and the devouring element, we begin to vaguely appreciate the labors, sacrifices, risks, and devotedness to duty of those men.

Thousands sat by their warm fires, or were rolled in their comfortable blankets; at that very hour flames were devouring buildings, and their own homes were exposed to similar risks.

sic; and he is stimulated to action by the consciousness of a glory that will be his. The fireman faces just as certain and as tragic a death, and the only music to inspire him is the hissing of flames, and the only glory is a brief mention in a death-column.

A CHAT WITH THE CRITICS.

(Contributed by An Old Journalist.)

The world is full of critics—no literary critics, but professional fault-finders. If you were to stand for a few hours on the street and listen to the conversations going on about you, I am sure you would wonder at the number of odd and wise people that the world contains, and at the apparent wisdom of the majority of people for their special avocations.

THE FIRE CRITIC. — Did you ever go to a fire? If not, make it a point the next time that you hear an alarm, to run after the reels and become a spectator.

ence of the men who had been doing their dangerous duty. Then he will run across some reporter who is in quest of anything and everything that could be used to fill up a corner in the local news columns.

JOURNALISTIC CRITICS.—These are not critics who are journalists; quite the contrary. Did you ever meet a man who could not tell you how to 'run a newspaper'?

Man often shows the hard side of his disposition to mark more strongly the generous shades. What fortunes are wasted by men and women who are struggling to know those who are hardly worth knowing!

lar's worth, nor sold a cent's worth dry goods in my life; I would not know how to go about purchasing a single line of his wares, much less would I be able to retail any of them.

RECENT DEATHS.

MR. FRANCIS McENTEE.—Time is unrelenting, and in its constant passage from the realms of the Past towards the domain of the Future, it effaces landmark after landmark with an impartiality that is remarkable.

The funeral will take place to-day to St. Ann's Church and Cote des Neiges Cemetery.

BROTHER CYRILLE.—This week we have the painful duty of recording the death of an esteemed and widely-known member of the Christian Brothers' community, in the person of the late Brother Cyrille.

There is not much use in asking God to bless the whole world as long as we are not willing to stand our share of the expense.











to help him off with the luggage. Hurry, he wants us quick. And in a twinkling we three, Nor-

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much in accord was it with my own trembling heart. I felt an extraordinary apprehension of coming dangers; I knew not what.

Household Notes

KEEP THE WINDOWS OPEN. Under this heading an exchange says: "You would not think of drinking stale or poisoned water, would you?"

Fresh air in cold weather will cost money, as more fuel will be required, but it will be economy, for if it does not save sickness and doctor's bills, which it most likely will do, you will feel better and stronger for it.

A PRACTICAL CATHOLIC HOME. One of our Catholic American exchanges remarks: "The Catholic home without the Catholic spirit is as dead as the body without the soul."

A REMINDER. Resolve in the race of life not to forget the "one thing necessary."

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Society Directory.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY.—Established March 6th, 1856, incorporated 1863, revised 1864. Meets in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander street, first Monday of the month.

ST. PATRICK'S T. A. AND B. SOCIETY.—Meets on the second Sunday of every month in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander street, at 8.30 p.m.

ST. ANN'S T. A. & B. SOCIETY, established 1868.—Rev. Director, Rev. Father McPhail; President, D. Aallery, 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 the hall, 157 Ottawa street, on the first Sunday of each month, at 2.30 p.m.

A.O.H. DIVISION NO. 6 meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, at 816 St. Lawrence Main street.

C.M.B.A. OF CANADA, BRANCH 26.—(Organized, 18th November, 1873.—Branch 26 meets at St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander St., on every Monday of each month.

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