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CONCERNING REPORTS OF CATHOLIC NEWS.

From time to time we have announced in the columns of the "True Witness" that we would not publish any item of news concerning Catholic matters, in local affairs, which had appeared in the secular press.

This news and these views should first see the light in the "True Witness" as it is the organ of Catholics speaking the English language in this district, as it has recently been proved that whatever the secular press deems to be of importance it will copy from our columns.

A DISTINGUISHED NUN DEAD.

The "Irish Catholic" gives a graphic account of the life and the peculiarly noble work performed during half a century by the late Sister or Mother Gertrude of the Presentation Convent, Listowel, in the world she was known as Mary Gertrude O'Connor, and was born in Tralee, seventy-six years ago.

Woman may exercise on those around her, and her knowledge of our people, showed her that the overwhelming majority of parents are utterly incapable of bringing up their children, particularly their sons, in the way best calculated to make them strong, helpful and independent—true men and true women.

So unique and interesting is the story of the organization—outside convent life—that Mother Gertrude formed, that we will reproduce what the "Irish Catholic" says upon the subject. In the course of a very long article that organ states as follows: "But it was in a sphere peculiarly her own, and somewhat foreign to the genius of convent life, that this wonderful woman's great qualities of head and heart appeared in their fullest perfection.

Woman may exercise on those around her, and her knowledge of our people, showed her that the overwhelming majority of parents are utterly incapable of bringing up their children, particularly their sons, in the way best calculated to make them strong, helpful and independent—true men and true women.

als of our race, may be carried away by an enthusiastic spirit of nationalism, which finds expression in language calculated to militate against their very best interests: but it is equally true that the same spirit does not permeate the great mass of our fellow-countrymen.

Where we are at a disadvantage, when any grave question of this class arises, is in the fact that we possess no grand, central, authoritative, organization, representative of the various societies and different bodies to which our people belong, and whose calm deliberation would ever lead to a general decision upon any attitude to be taken in every case of national moment.

In the case of this Boer struggle, we have a striking illustration of our contention. Opinions are raised and played on record without any there existing a possibility of their weighing the merits of the conflicting claims of either party.

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TOPICS OF THE HOUR.

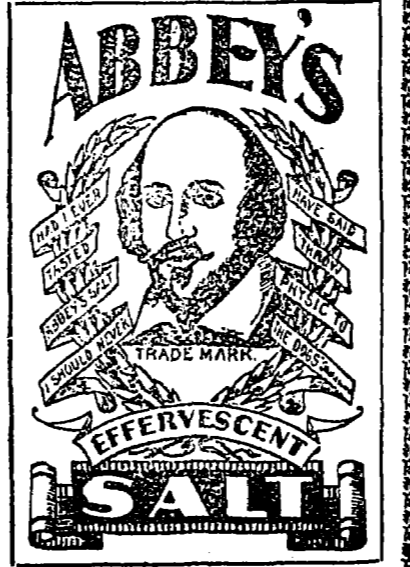
The burning question of the hour is the war that is now going on between Great Britain and the Boers of South Africa. Not merely as a war is it interesting to the people of this country, but the fact that onless political controversies and national antagonisms have been awakened in consequence of the connection, that is about to exist between our Dominion and the theatre of the struggle, has made it a subject of all-absorbing importance.

about, until one would imagine that we were on the eve of some great race-war in our own country. We are in sympathy with neither one nor the other. The ultra-loyalists are men who evidently make a profession of their patriotism and who love to proclaim their devotion to a great cause, by the safe means of urging others to go forth, while they let on steam and clap hands at home.

As to an opinion upon the merits or demerits of the situation, on either side, we cannot see what good purpose would be served by its pronouncement at this moment. We have ever advocated union and harmony, and we know of few questions that have been more fruitful of division and discord than this one of the Transvaal war.

And what we say of the ultra-loyalist, we can equally apply to the opposite, or anti-loyalist one. Especially are Irishmen designated when ever there is any doubt cast upon the enthusiasm and loyalty of any element in this country.

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A VICTIM TO THE SEAL OF CONFESSION.

A TRUE STORY.

By REV. JOSEPH SPILLMAN, S. J.

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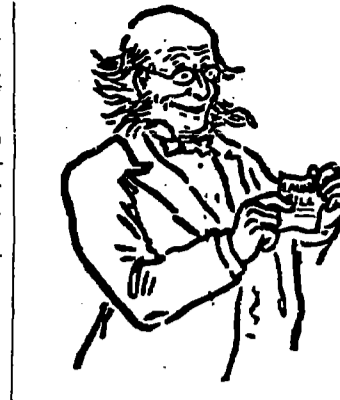
CHAPTER XVII. IN COURT.

The eventful day came at last. Long before the doors opened, an eager crowd thronged the square before the Court of Justice and filled the adjacent streets. The mob swayed impatiently, each individual being anxious to get in first and secure a good place in the gallery. "It is no use pushing," the doorkeeper said to them. "The doors will not be opened until eight o'clock, and then only persons who have tickets will be admitted. Two hundred tickets have been issued, and that is about as many as the gallery holds."

allowed himself to be dislodged from his place by the bustling little woman. The high, spacious court was lighted by a dome. At the far end, on a raised platform were the tables and chairs of the judges; that of the presiding judge being somewhat higher than the others. Above his seat a large crucifix hung on the wall. Along the wall on the right were the seats appropriated to the jury; on the left was the prisoner's dock, slightly raised above the level of the floor. In front of this the counsel for the defence had his seat, that of the prosecutor being opposite.

with a few appropriate sentences. A frightful crime had been committed, the murder with robbery of a lady highly esteemed for her charity and good works, and what was yet worse, suspicion pointed to the priest of the parish, her confessor, as the perpetrator of the deed. It was the duty of the administrators of justice to decide, without regard of person, whether the accused was guilty or not guilty. Nothing must be allowed to bias the minds of the jury; it was much to be regretted that this unhappy occurrence had been discussed from the press from the standpoint of politics, and even employed to the furtherance of politics, and even employed to the furtherance of political aims before the guilt of the prisoner had been judicially proved. The interest of justice demanded a total exclusion of anything like party spirit from the law courts; no consideration of person or calling, but only well substantiated facts, must have weight. He had been sorry to hear remarks from the people in the streets which could only be justified by abhorrence of the crime and the false, preconceived idea that the prisoner was proved to be guilty. He warned all persons present against any expression of feeling, either of approval or disapproval, as if the least disturbance was made, he would instantly order the gallery to be cleared.

the perpetrator of the deed acquainted me with it, I could only know of it if I had done it myself and again. I repeat I am entirely innocent of it. Here the prosecutor interposed to bid the jury observe that the accused did not attempt to deny that the tidings brought by the mayor caused him little or no surprise. This, in conjunction with other evidence, confirmed the statement that he himself was the murderer. The counsel for the defence answered that the circumstances of his silent evincing no confusion should rather be taken as a proof of his innocence. But if, as his visitors imagined, though they might easily be mistaken on this point, the news of the unhappy lady's disappearance did in reality cause him no great surprise, "I shall be able," he said, "when the right time comes to clear up this difficulty in the most satisfactory manner. The explanation would take too long now."



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member having told him to get his hair cut, and he wanted to let me know that he had obeyed me.

"Why are you studying the art of sword fencing," John was asked. "Because I am making for the Peace Conference, and it is always well to provide for emergencies."

Papa—Why doesn't Blanche marry that young idiot? I am tired of his visits. Mamma—Better let things as they are; otherwise he will remain for good."

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Violin advertisement with price \$495 and contact information for Johnston & McFarlane.

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BECKER, REV. WM., S. J.—Christian Education, or the Duties of Parents. Rendered from the German into English by a Priest of the Diocese of Cleveland, 12mo., 424 pages. Cloth \$1.25 net.

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MR. KAVANAGH'S TIMELY PROTEST.

Mr. Henry J. Kavanagh, O.C. of the law firm of Judah, Branchaud & Kavanagh, asks the Herald to print the following letter, previously sent to the Gazette, which had refused to publish it:

mission from Parliament, but from the Pope, and if you can only guess at the contents of his commission from what has been said and done in Parliament you must necessarily be very much in the dark on the subject.

THE POET PRIEST OF THE NORTH.

If the late Rev. Abrahm J. Ryan has been fittingly styled the "Poet-priest of the South," we can with equal exactness call the Rev. Father Wm. Dollard, the "Poet-priest of the North."

his sterling sacerdotal character and virtues. We might say that we think the date of Father Dollard's ordination was 1891; because during that year, and the foregoing two or three years he was a student in the Grand Seminary of Montreal, and then contributed many beautiful poems to the "True Witness" over the nom de plume "Slevenanon."

SWISS BISHOPS AND THE CATHOLIC PRESS.

The Bishops of Switzerland have published a collective letter to their flocks, urging them to support Catholic newspapers. We make the following extract and commend it to the attention of Catholics in this country:

NOTES FROM OTTAWA.

The pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes at Rigaud, as already announced took place on Sunday the 15th instant. About four hundred persons from Aylmer, Hull and the city left the city at eight o'clock, and returned at seven in the evening.

last week. On the following morning His Excellency the Delegate accompanied by His Grace the Archbishop, and other clergymen visited the institution, where he celebrated Mass, and was received by the pupils.

THE LATE MISS PURCELL.

Once more are we called upon to condole with esteemed and honored fellow-citizens on the sad occasion of a special bereavement. We have to record this week the early death of Miss Margaret Mary Josephine (Maud) Purcell, daughter of Mr. John P. Purcell, late of Her Majesty's Customs, and sister of His Honor Justice Purcell and Mr. Gerald C. Purcell.

DEATH OF MRS. JOHN LAMONT.

The death occurred rather suddenly on Tuesday morning, of Mrs. John Lamont, at her home, No. 100 LaPrairie Street. The deceased was the beloved wife of Mr. John Lamont, bandmaster of St. Gabriel's Independent band, and the only sister of Mr. J. B. Flynn, clerk of the Haymarket.

GLAZING LUXFER PRISMS.

Glazing of ornamental glass is a fine art. Fortunately panels of ornamental glass do not require to be exposed to changes of temperature, as in ordinary glass, Luxfer Prisms, however, to give their best effect, must be subjected to the greatest weather exposure.

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Ladies' Strap or laced d'orella. Kid shoes, regular \$1.35 for \$1.00.

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E. MANSFIELD, THE SHOENET, 124 St. Lawrence Street

RUTHVEN IN LANCASHIRE.

Great excitement prevailed in Blackburn on Sunday night in consequence of a visit paid to that town by the notorious individual known as ex-priest Ruthven. The scandal-monger was lecturing at the Blackburn Exchange, and a crowded gathering assembled to give him a warm reception—and a warm reception was accorded him in true Lancashire style.

A Veteran's Trials.

ATTACHED WITH KIDNEY TROUBLE IN AN AGGRAVATED FORM. His Digestion Became Impaired and His Case Was Looked Upon as Hopeless—Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Restored Him When Other Medicines Failed.

From the Telegraph, Welland, Ont. Among the residents of Port Robinson there are few better known than Mr. Samuel Richards, who has resided in that vicinity for some 27 years.

THE S. CARSLY CO. Limited.

260,000 words. Germany comes next after a great drop with 80,000 words. Then follow Italy with 75,000, France with only 30,000. Turkey with 22,500 and Spain with 20,000 words.

Advertisement for The D. & J. Sadlier & Co. Emulsion, featuring a bottle illustration and text describing its benefits for consumption and general health.

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