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Current Comment

The end of last week witnessed a very unusual commotion in our generally quiet city. The street car employees went out on strike at three o'clock in the morning of March 29. Their chief grievances were insufficient wages and the non-recognition of the Union. Mr. William Mackenzie, president of the Winnipeg Electric Street Railway, had previously attempted through his chosen representatives here, to settle the dispute amicably; but foreseeing a rupture, he had sent on from the east a force of experienced men, who manned the cars as soon as the strike was declared. However, the service was so irregular on Thursday, the 29th, that many travellers who had relied on the street cars to catch an early train, missed it. The few street cars that did venture into the open were greeted with hisses and hooting. This manifestation soon became more threatening. By noon nine cars had been forcibly stopped and left standing empty on the rails. A few hours later three other cars were burned. No cars were run at night. But the turmoil lasted till the afternoon of Friday, the 30th. The storm centre was between Portage Avenue and James Street. There were several broken heads. About 2 p.m. the crowd of five or six thousand people near the C.P.R. subway became so menacing that Mayor Sharpe, standing up in his carriage, read the Riot Act, and as the mob did not seem to realize the gravity of this solemn warning, His Worship ordered out the troops. The sight of the soldiers, armed and ready to fire, effectually quelled the mob. A general rush for side streets and shelter of any kind followed. The street was cleared as if by magic. The troops returned to Fort Osborne barracks about five in the afternoon. In the evening they paraded the streets and remained under arms all night. But there was happily no necessity for further show of military possibilities. From that time forth during the ensuing week there have been daily rumors that the strike was about to end, coupled on Wednesday of this week with a rumor that there might be a sympathetic strike of many other labor unions. And all the time cars continue to run without any interference since the 30th ult. The company state that they have thirty-five cars in operation. But they do not attempt to run on Higgins or Dufferin Avenues. At first few passengers ventured to try the irregular and insufficient service, but on Wednesday, before nightfall, several cars were comfortably full. Meanwhile most of our fellow citizens, and especially the tired laborer after his heavy day's work, have had to walk.

Another setback came to Mackenzie & Mann just when the strike was hottest. A freight train collided with a shunting engine and a few empty cars on the Canadian Northern bridge at the St. Boniface end. One of the empties tumbled into the river and the bridge was damaged to the tune of several thousand dollars. Fortunately no one was seriously injured. But traffic on the bridge was stopped for three days while the repairs were going on, and C.N.R. trains had to enter Winnipeg by the C.P.R. bridge.

Lately in the police court here the Humane Society scored a noble victory. One of its members, a well known lady, got a man fined five dollars for urging his horse to rise by prodding him with his foot. Those who knew the brute well testified that it was lazy and often lay down in the road through sheer cussedness. Father Portelance, O.M.I., who saw the occurrence, said there had been no cruelty. But the lady was shocked and the Humane Society is fashionable, so the just judge condemned the poor driver to pay a comparatively heavy fine for having urged the balky brute to do its work and for thereby having inflicted on the horse less suffering than a man feels when stung by a mosquito. The best psychologists are agreed that animals do not feel pain in anything like the way human beings

do; but the women of the Humane Society are not supposed to know any psychology, they sentimentalize, they do not reason.

The famous Dr. William Osler, Regius Professor of Medicine in the University of Oxford, has lately published a collection of lectures delivered by him last summer during a visit to the Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore, where he won his greatest laurels, and on leaving which he startled the world by his joke about the forty-year limit. This attractive volume is called "Aequanimitas," from the title of the first lecture. The book fairly sparkles with brilliant ideas daintily expressed. In the lecture

NEW CHURCH AT RAINY RIVER

Rainy River is a town of two thousand inhabitants on the right bank of the Rainy River (Riviere a la Pluie), in western Ontario, 153 miles east of Winnipeg. Some four years ago, when the place was not yet a town, Rev. Father St. Amand, who was then in charge, opened the first church near the river bank. Later on, when the townsite was centred a quarter of a mile inland on higher ground, the frame building was moved up to a more central location. About two years ago Rev. Father Meleux was appointed pastor of the fast growing town and soon set about preparing to build a new church more in keeping with the development of the place. The new Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, situated on one of the finest and most central sites, was completed last Saturday, and is by far the best church edifice in Rainy River. It consists of a basement in concrete.

Persons and Facts

Baroness Monteiro has been received into the Church by Rev. C. E. Rivers, M. A., at the church of Our Lady of Lourdes, London.

A colossal statue in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, is to be erected in Portugal. The state will defray half the expense, the Apostolate of Prayer the other half. It will be a national memorial in honor of her Immaculate Conception. Under this title she is the Patroness of the Lusitanian kingdom.

Whatever else he left undone, one act of kindness to Catholics can be recorded of King Christian of Denmark,

the nefarious Combes regime. She then went to serve among the lepers in the mountains of Zanzibar among the Mussulmans. Mother Donatelle was sister to Brother Leo O'Donnell, superior of Cummes monastery, County Galway, and to Sister Angelo, also of the order of St. Joseph, now in Spain.

The Calendar of the Paulist Church, New York, commenting on the Young Men's Christian Association, declares it is no organization for Catholic boys and young men to belong to, but it furthermore declares that an organization somewhat similar is needed among Catholics. As to the answer that it is impossible to establish and build up such an association, the Calendar says: "Impossible! That exclamation is heard! That exclamation of every great work. Not many years ago, when the Knights of Columbus were organized there were those who said that such a society is impossible; nevertheless it was established. Again, in 1893, when it was suggested that priests give missions to non-Catholics, there were those who said that such a plan was impossible of execution, and, at the very least, imprudent and untimely; yet the missions to non-Catholics are succeeding. So it is with this work; a Catholic Y. M. C. A. is not impossible; it needs but the man to organize it. The time is at hand, the boys are waiting, and they are suffering while they wait. It will cost effort; it will cost worry; it will cost money. But it will save boys, it will build up characters; it will preserve religion; in no small measure it will help to fill our country with men of intellect and conscience. The hour is here. The need is pressing."

Dr. Francis J. Quinlan, president of the Catholic Club, New York, has been elected as the recipient of the Laetare medal, which is awarded each year by the University of Notre Dame, Ind., to a Catholic who has distinguished himself in some line of good work. Dr. Quinlan is president of the New York County Medical Association, and is a professor of laryngology in the New York Polyclinic.

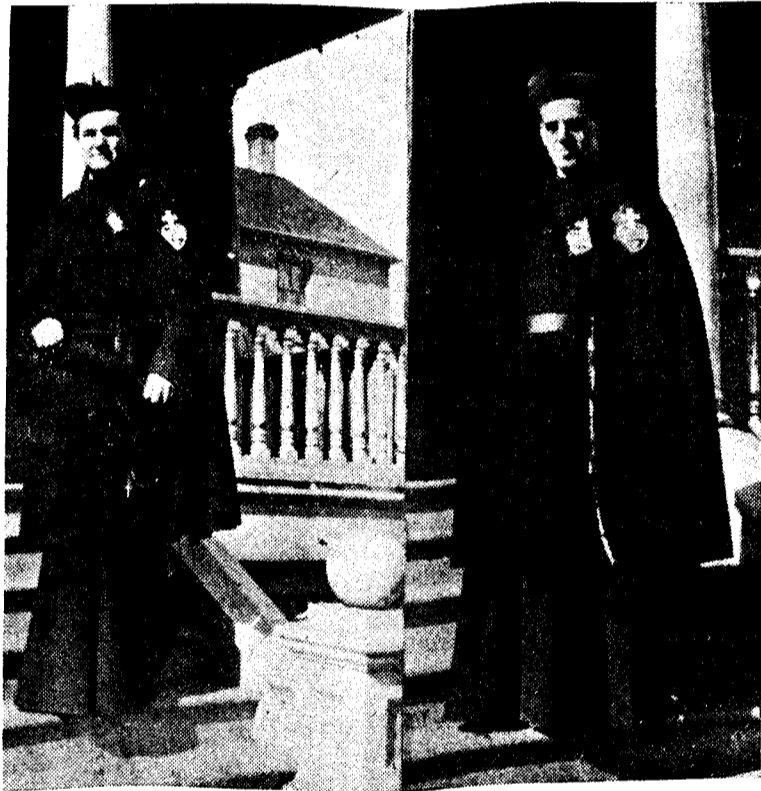
Lord Brampton, once better known as Judge Hawkins, and a recent convert to the Catholic Church, has made the handsome contribution of £1,000 to the building fund of the new Catholic Cathedral at Westminster. It is not the first evidence he has given of interest in the structure, because he has also presented a side chapel at a cost of \$25,000.

William Regan, of the Irish Cloth House, Ballinrobe, has received an order from the private secretary to King Alfonso of Spain, ordering a supply of Irish tweed.

A colony of Little Sisters of the Poor was lately established in Bucharest, Armenia, although Catholics are few in that vicinity.

The Catholics of Cincinnati, corresponding with the wishes of Archbishop Moeller, are planning a permanent organization of the Catholic officers who have in charge the work in connection with the Juvenile Court.

In view of the somewhat preposterous decisions of the New York courts as to the legality of a Catholic Sister's wearing her religious costume while teaching in the public schools, it is gratifying to learn, from the Freeman's Journal, that the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, a State which has a constitutional clause similar to that of New York, expressly refused to recognize the doctrine that the garb violated the law. It expressly declared: "In the sixty years of our present school system this is the first time this court has been asked to decide as a matter of law that it is sectarian teaching for a devout woman to appear in a schoolroom in a



Rev. Fr. GREGORY O'BRIEN, C.P. of St. Louis
Rev. Fr. RICHARD BARRET, C.P. of Pittsburg
The eloquent Passionist Fathers who have been conducting the missions at St. Mary's Church, Winnipeg, for the past three weeks.

on "Doctor and Nurse," he says: "Nowhere in ancient history, sacred or profane, do we find pictures of heroic women such as dot the annals of the Catholic Church, or such as can be paralleled in our century." And again: "Here" (in a hospital) "we learn to scan gently our brother man, judging not, asking no questions, but meeting out to all alike a hospitality worthy of the 'Hotel Dieu' and deeming ourselves honored in being allowed to act as its dispensers." Scattered through these fascinating lectures are many such gems, witnessing to the great man's appreciation of Catholic charity. And yet these lectures, on the whole, are very disappointing. They distinctly do not produce the impression of a well-balanced, deep-probing, far-grasping intellect. They are redolent of a refined literary atmosphere, they abound in delicate allusion to the stores of a widely read mind. But they leave no definite impress on the reader. One cannot help thinking that Oxford must be finding him superficially coruscating, but hardly up to his American-made reputation.

Some time ago Archbishop Riordon of San Francisco ordered prayers for rain to be said in all the churches of his diocese. Last week the bishop made the following official announcement: "In thanks to God, who has blessed our fields with abundant rain, the prayer 'Deus cujus misericordia' is hereby ordered in all the Masses wherever it is permitted by the rubrics, and the prayers for rain are hereby ordered discontinued."

13 ft. 6 in. high, thoroughly drained above which is the church, 28 ft. 6 in. high, 32 feet wide and 83 ft. 6 in. long. The graceful steeple is 76 ft. to the top of the cross. Everything is complete and well finished, even to the Bell organ and the neat altar. The pews, which can seat 180 persons, are very comfortable. The painting of the walls is in very good taste. Some of it is stencil work but not overcharged; however, the gem of the decoration is the R. mance arabesque gilding of the Sanctuary vaulted ceiling. "Here the lines are extremely graceful. This is all freehand (not stencil) work, thoroughly artistic, and reflects great credit on Mr. Louis Langlamet, a young French artist, lately arrived from France. The scheme of decoration was entrusted to Mr. F. D. Pambrun, the well known St. Boniface painter, who was assisted by Mr. Langlamet and Mr. Amedee Levasseur, and who did his work to the perfect satisfaction of Father Meleux and all visitors to the beautiful edifice. The floor and part of the walls are painted to imitate granite blocks, and the effect is quite pleasing. The architect and contractor for the entire structure was Mr. J. A. Cusson, of St. Boniface. He and his efficient forman, Mr. H. Savaria, deserve the highest praise. But Father Meleux himself has spared no pains during the past six months in daily superintending the labors of the builders and decorators, saying his Mass at four o'clock in the morning so as to be able to act as Clerk of the works all day.

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who has just died. When the disgraceful Associations' law drove the Catholic nuns out of France three years ago he willingly gave those of several orders a welcome refuge in his little country.

On Sunday, September 10, Archbishop Ridolfi, Apostolic Delegate to Mexico, received into the Catholic Church, Mrs. Elizabeth Maria de Lavoire a young American lady, highly related by family ties, and heretofore a member of the Lutheran Church. After abjuring all heretical beliefs, she received Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist. The ceremonial was imposing and made an impression on all present. The church of the Salesians, where this took place, was full of friends and acquaintances of the neophyte.—The Mexican Herald.

As a result of the Paulist mission conducted at the Boston cathedral, 2,500 temperance pledges were signed.

A telegram from St. Petersburg to the "Univers" says that the Government has authorized the Redemptorists to give missions to the working men in Poland.

From Zanzibar comes news of the death of a heroic Irish missionary sister, Rev. Mother Maria Donatelle O'Donnell, of the Order of St. Joseph of Cluny. Mother Donatelle was a native of County Limerick, Ireland. Close on thirty years of her religious life she passed in France, until the spoliation of her order by the government under

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