

draw. when the Pope said, 'Have you not some articles to be blessed?' He had noticed the box of medals, rosaries, etc., which I carried under my arm and which, in the delight of the interview, I had forgotten. I eagerly presented them to him. He blessed them, and then, spreading one hand over them, he said, 'See, the Pope touches them.' Then he added, 'I bless you, Father, and I bless all those whom you may bless.'

"You also had a private audience with the Emperor of Austria. I believe?"

"Yes; the Austrian Prime Minister arranged that for me. When I reached the magnificent Imperial Palace, one of the officers on guard politely asked me if I had any decorations, pointing to my breast. At first, in blank surprise, I said 'No,' but presently I thought myself of the crucifix in my belt, and holding it up to his view, I said, 'Here is a decoration I have worn fifty-one years.' The officer bowed and smiled, saying there could be none better. Then, pointing to a certain door, he said, 'Don't knock, just turn the handle, and when you have crossed the threshold, close the door behind you.'

"Excuse me, Father; but what language did you use?"

"French with most of the high officials; they all speak French fluently. But this officer did not know much French; so I used a medley of French and Latin. By the way, I discovered in the course of my travels that my Latin was not so rusty after all; it helped me out a good deal, and I had picked up some German words.

"To return to His Majesty Francis Joseph. I had been warned that he never smiled, his life has been saddened by the tragic death of his son and heir and the assassination of the Empress. As I entered the room I saw the Emperor, a man of medium height in the uniform of a General, standing alone in the large room. The etiquette is to stand all the time. I bowed low and he spoke to me in excellent French. He inquired with evident interest about his former subjects, the Galicians, now settled in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. I informed His Majesty that I had just returned from a visit to Galicia, where I had been much edified by the holiness of the Ruthenian Bishop of Stanislaw. Thereupon the Emperor remarked, without the faintest indication of a smile, 'Yes, he is a good Catholic.' When about to withdraw, I thanked His Majesty for so kindly granting me an interview, but he stopped me with these gracious words: 'It is rather I that have to thank you for travelling so far at your advanced age, in the interest of my poor Galicians.'

"Two things especially impressed me all through the Austrian Empire: the loving loyalty of the people to the House of Hapsburg, and the thoroughly Catholic atmosphere of the country. Everybody speaks of Francis Joseph not as 'the Emperor,' but as 'our Emperor,' and they gently correct travellers who use the former phrase. One sees everywhere tokens of Catholic faith. Even in the offices of the cabinet ministers I saw splendid ivory crucifixes and pictures of the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin. The Prime Minister talks about church matters as a bishop would. He paid my travelling expenses and those of my two companions from Vienna to Galicia and back."

**PERSONS AND FACTS.**

Among five young women who, on the last feast of the Immaculate Conception, entered St. Mary's of the Woods, the mother house of the Sisters of Providence of the United States, was Miss Louise Iske, of Indianapolis, the daughter of a Lutheran minister in Indianapolis, who joined the Catholic Church despite the strenuous opposition of her parents a few months ago. She was a school teacher.

Last Friday, December 21, Midwinter Day, it actually rained, a most unusual thing in Manitoba at this season, and the thermometer rose as high as 37.

Miss Lucie Félix Faure, daughter of the late President of the French Republic, has lately published "Newman: sa Vie et ses Œuvres," a work which the *Tablet* praises highly, as revealing deep insight into the special character of Newman's mind, and containing many passages of rare analytical power.

Rev. Father Drummond leaves to-day for Regina, where he will lecture tomorrow in aid of the Catholic church

there. He will not return to St. Boniface till the second or third of January.

Rev. Dom Sebastian, of the Canons Regular, I. C., received minor orders from Mgr. Langevin last Saturday morning in His Grace's private chapel.

By the death of Rev. Dominic du Ranquet, S. J., who died at Wikwinkong, Manitoulin Island, on the 12th inst., Rev. Father Dandurand, O. M. I., becomes the senior priest of Canada. The latter, having been ordained Sept. 21, 1841, is now in the sixtieth year of his priesthood, and, as we all are pleased to see, enjoys excellent health and manifests none of the infirmities of age, though far advanced in his 82nd year.

Rev. Father Lacombe, O. M. I., who arrived last Friday and left for Calgary last Sunday, is accompanied by the Rev. Fr. Lefebvre, O. M. I., a scholastic who has completed his theology and will soon be ordained. He is a nephew of the Rev. Father Lefebvre, late Provincial of the Oblates.

Rev. Father Guillet, O. M. I., pastor of St. Mary's, has been suffering from erysipelas at St. Roch's hospital, and is now, we are happy to state, on the mend.

Some two hundred persons leave England to-morrow on a pilgrimage to Rome.

His Grace the Archbishop of St. Paul celebrated last Friday the silver jubilee of his episcopate. His see was raised to the archiepiscopal rank twelve years ago. The Most Rev. John Ireland is in his sixty-second year.

Mr. Merry del Val, father of Mgr. Merry del Val, has been recalled from Rome, where he was Spanish Ambassador to the Holy See.

Mr. C. S. Devas, the great economist, writes to the *Tablet*, pointing out that the French Empire (France and her colonies) now exceeds in population all empires except the British and the Russian, "for China need not be counted." He also draws attention to the ominous decline in the English and Australian (he might have mentioned the Ontario) birth-rate.

When the 22,000 Mayors of France were in Paris last September, many of them, wearing their scarf of office, were pilgrims to the Church of the Sacred Heart at Montmartre, and two of them even said Mass there.—*Missionary Record of the Oblates.*

"According to report, Oscar Wilde attributed his catastrophe to the fact that his father would not allow him, when he was a youth, to submit himself to the discipline of the Catholic Church. Be that as it may, Mr. Wilde's reception into the Church, during his last illness, by one of the Passionist Fathers in Paris, constitutes his own act of public and voluntary repentance."—*The Tablet*, Dec. 8.

The late Lady Van Straubenzee, who died on Nov. 28, was the widow of General Sir Charles T. Van Straubenzee, late Governor of Malta, and the aunt of the present Major Van Straubenzee. She was a staunch Catholic.

The Metropolis of the Empire is greatly exercised over the recrudescence of ruffianism (or Hooliganism) occasioned by the senseless rejoicings over the return of troops whose chief desire was to get out of South Africa as quickly as possible.

On the 8th of this month there died in New York a venerable priest who had been for some years a practising physician and for a year or two a Protestant minister, before he became a Catholic. William Everett, born August 14, 1814, was ordained priest January 29, 1853, and was pastor of the Church of the Nativity in New York for forty-five years. His physician's diploma was dated 66 years ago. He was in his 87th year.

**THE LATE FATHER DU RANQUET.**

The news reached here last Saturday that the venerable Father Dominic du Ranquet, S. J., the oldest priest in Canada, breathed his last on the 12th inst. The reason why the news was so long in coming is the slowness and irregularity of winter communications

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**ERZINGER, MCINTYRE BLOCK.**

with Manitoulin Island, where he died. The family of the du Ranquets, belonging to the old nobility of France, gave six of its members to the Society of Jesus, five sons and their father. One of the sons, Henry, came to Canada in 1852, and in 1854 went to New York, where he labored for forty years in the prisons and charitable institutions of the Empire City and was revered as the Apostle of the Outcast. He died four or five years ago.

Dominic was born January 20, 1813, and had, therefore, nearly completed his eighty-ninth year at the time of his death. He entered the Society of Jesus October 9, 1838, and was ordained March 6, 1841. Thus he lived fifty-nine years, nine months and six days as a priest, and had been, since the death last summer of Father Francis J. McDonald, of St. George's, P. E. I., the oldest priest in Canada. Father Dominic du Ranquet lived almost fifty-two years after the date of his last vows, February 2, 1849.

These figures alone are eloquent of long perseverance in the service of the altar and in the fervor of religious life. But they give only a faint idea of the heroic virtues of this saintly missionary. Coming to Canada in 1842, he began his apostolic career at Abbitibi the next year. In 1852 he was at the Jesuit College in Montreal. Soon afterwards he devoted himself to the Indian missions of Lakes Superior and Huron. For the last forty years his headquarters were at Wikwinkong, Manitoulin Island. Except for the few closing years of his life, when the infirmities of age did not allow him to undertake long journeys on foot, he was ever on the move, walking on snowshoes in winter with his scanty luggage and portable altar on his back in all weathers, visiting the roving bands of Indians, encouraging the Catholic Indians and converting the heathen. Marvellous stories are told of his supernatural power with those wayward souls. But he never breathed a syllable of these things. Wrapt in prayer and utterly dead to self, he was always affable at home and most faithful to the smallest regulations of the community. His holy life, especially during the enforced quiet of his last days, was a never-ending source of edification to his brethren. Once last summer he was at the point of death and received the last sacraments, but he rallied for a few months more, and now he is gone to meet the Lord to whom he had given the morning, noon and evening of his long earthly day. His life was hidden with Christ in God. R. I. P.

**HE'LL DO.**

"He'll do," said a gentleman, decisively, speaking of an office boy who had been in his employ but a single day.

"What makes you think so?"  
 "Because he gives up so entirely to the task in hand. I watched him while he swept the office, and although a procession with three or four brass bands in it went by the office while he was at work, he paid no attention to it, but swept on as if the sweeping of that room was the only thing of any consequence on this earth at that time. Then I set him to addressing some envelopes, and although there were a lot of picture papers and other papers on the desk at which he sat, he paid no attention, but kept right on addressing those envelopes until the last one of them was done. He'll do, because he is thorough and in dead earnest about everything."

You may naturally be a very smart person; you may be so gifted that you can do almost anything, but all that you do will lack perfection if you do not do it with all your heart and strength.

**THE CHILDREN'S PLAN.**

Here is a story from Mr. William Canton's new book, "Children's Sayings." Two little lads were discussing how much they each loved father and mother.

The elder said, "I couldn't live without 'muvver;' if she ever dies, I shall go and dig her up."

His brother replied, "Yours is a very stupid plan. When 'farver' dies I'm going to have him stuffed!"

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GRAIN PRODUCED.		
	1885.	1899.
Wheat.. . . . .	7,429,440 bush.	27,922,230 bush.
Oats.. . . . .	6,364,263 bush.	22,318,378 bush.
Barley . . . . .	1,113,481 bush.	5,379,156 bush.
Total . . . . .	14,907,184 bush.	55,619,764 bush.

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