

Clerical News

Rev. Father Molurier, of St. Boniface, who has long been a sufferer from phthisis, received the last sacraments of the Church on Saturday last from Rev. J. Dugas, S.J., Rector of St. Boniface College. Father Molurier understands his own condition thoroughly and is happy to die.

Right Rev. Monsignor Dugas returned to the Archbishop's House at the end of last week, quite restored to health.

Rev. Father Lacasse, O.M.I., left last Monday for St. Lazare, Foxwarren, where he began a mission on Ash Wednesday morning.

Rev. Father Doucet, O.M.I., of the Piegan Reserve, near Macleod, Alberta, arrived from France at St. Mary's Presbytery in this city last Monday and continued his westward journey on Tuesday.

Right Rev. Monsignor David Shaw Ramsay died in Montreal on Feb. 23, in his eighty-first year. He was the second son of David Ramsay, of Grimmet, Ayrshire, and of Helen, daughter of John Shaw, of Dalton, Kirkcubrightshire, and was born April 22, 1825, in Edinburgh, where he was educated by private tutors and at Edinburgh University. Being possessed of a handsome income, he came to Canada at the age of twenty and became by purchase "Seigneur" of De Ramezay, a seigniory in the province of Quebec, where he distinguished himself by arduous and successful efforts to establish industrial reformatory schools for boys and girls. He also took great interest in military matters, raised a troop of cavalry, passed some time in a Hussar regiment in England, and then returned to Canada. In 1857 he was an unsuccessful Conservative candidate in the county of Bagot, Que.

Until his residence at Varennes, where, on his first arrival in Canada, he acquired fluency in the French language, he had been a staunch Anglican and had contributed largely to the construction of Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal. But at Varennes Lacordaire's Conferences, which he took up for practice in French, led him to doubt the security of the Anglican position. It took fourteen years of study and prayer to bring about his conversion. He was received into the Catholic Church by Canon, afterwards Archbishop, Fabre in 1859. Shortly after his conversion, having always led a singularly pure and blameless life, he determined to study for the priesthood. This was no small undertaking for a man of 34, whose Latin had become very rusty from disuse; but he set to work like a schoolboy and edited the students of the Jesuit College (St. Mary's) in Montreal by his regular attendance at the philosophy lectures. Having been ordained priest in Montreal in June 1867, he went to England and became Rector of St. Bede's, South Shields, and Rural Dean of St. Aidan's in the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. There he gave his services gratuitously, expending all he could spare of his income on the poor; for, accustomed as he had hitherto been to all the luxuries of a gentleman, and dainty in all his tastes, he was a man of deep and earnest piety to whom the mortifications of Christian perfection were familiar. So great was his zeal for spiritual advancement that he entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus at Rochampton, London, S.W., and did his best to conform to the manifold prescriptions of the religious life; but his numerous bodily infirmities, coupled with his advanced age—he was then fifty-six—soon convinced his superiors that he was not called, to a manner of life, the initiation to which generally requires the elasticity of youth or at least good health. And so he returned to the ranks of the secular clergy, always, however, preserving a great affection for the Society.

During his sojourn in England he at one time did temporary duty at Ripon, in Yorkshire, for Canon Vavasseur, absent for a time on account of ill health. Father Ramsay was the Canadian priest from one of whose letters, written in 1877, we last week quoted some words in praise of the Marquis of Ripon. In that same letter, after expressing his great sorrow at the news that his own mother was dying, he wrote: "Still I am much consoled by being able to offer the Holy Sacrifice daily, by the kindness of my friends, by the thought of God's goodness and the excellent life my dearest mother, in her invincible ignorance, by the help of God's grace has been able to lead." These thoughts will bring some comfort to Father Ramsay's Catholic friends, who always regretted that no other member of this family had followed him into the Church. He added these other words that reveal his apostolic spirit: "I have made a number of friends, both Catholic and Protestant, since I came to Ripon; still I weary to return to the crowds of poor Irish people I left rather hastily to come here."

He came back to Canada about fifteen years ago and retired to a farm near Magog, which he called St. Margaret's. Later on he gave this property to Bishop Laroque for the support of the poor. In 1890 he published an interesting "Life of Madame d'Youville," the only English life of the Venerable Foundress of the Grey Nuns. In 1897 he was created Domestic Prelate by His Holiness Leo XIII. In 1898 he was a conspicuous figure in the golden jubilee celebration of his second Alma Mater, St. Mary's College.

Monsignor Ramsay passed away very suddenly, in an attack of apopleptic congestion of the lungs, at 7.30 p.m., Feb. 23. The funeral took place in St. James' Cathedral on Tuesday morning.

An elder brother, the late Judge T. K. Ramsay, died many years ago. A sister, who lived with the Monsignor, and who is ten years his senior, survives him.

Rev. A. M. Ferland, pastor of St. Antoine, on the Arcola branch of the C.P.R., was here on Tuesday and reports that his French Canadian, French and Belgian parishioners are prosperous.

Rev. Dr. Lacoste, O.M.I., who was for several years Vice-Rector of Ottawa University and professor of dogmatic theology in the seminary, is now stationed at Prince Albert under His Lordship Bishop Pascal.

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DR. DEVINE LECTURES ON THE BOER WAR

Surgeon-Major Devine, who accompanied the first Canadian Mounted Rifles to South Africa, (returned to Winnipeg, and then a year later went back to South Africa with the second Canadian Mounted Rifles and won the D.S.O. at Hart's River—Ed. N. R.) and who, during the campaign was prominently identified with the ambulance corps, delivered a very instructive, amusing and oftentimes pathetic lecture at the Carnegie library Saturday evening, on incidents of the Boer War. His address was illustrated by stereopticon views from snapshots taken by himself. The first view shown was of Oom Paul, who the speaker explained was a firm believer in the earth's flatness, and when a stranger when interviewing him casually mentioned that he was on a trip "around" the world, Oom Paul at once ordered him from the house. The next view was of President Steyn, of the Orange Free State, who, in the estimation of a great many people, was responsible for the war, and all the more culpable as he was a highly educated man, and a member of the English bar. The next was a scene depicting the first rain, or, more correctly speaking, "flood" which the Canadians experienced, which totally incapacitated the western horses for any further use in the campaign.

Explaining a snap of a number of Canadian Mounted Rifles, the major said that owing to their position in the lines, and the necessity for their hustling for food and forage, they had gained the name of "Canadian Mounted Robbers,"

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which spoke well for their success as foragers. A view of the Canadians, under General Hutton, racing across the Vaal River to participate with the regulars in a battle on May 24, was the cause of the regular officers under French expressing disapprobation of such an attempt to snatch away their laurels. This was their avowed intention, and in it they were entirely successful. A view of Pretoria, where the boys thought the campaign would cease, occasioned much applause.

Major Devine remarked that it had often been said that Britain was fighting a nation of farmers, but a view of the artillery barracks next shown contradicted any such illusion, as it was one of the finest equipped artillery schools in the world, and turned out a body of picked shots. This the British found out to their sorrow. Several views of the genus (mule) which never gets sick, and when it feels sick promptly dies, in many positions of stubbornness, created much laughter. The speaker remarked it was no laughing matter at the time of action.

Major Devine flatly contradicted the stories about the Boers firing on the Red Cross. Such a thing no doubt occurred at times, but it was on account of the great distance, creating the impression in the minds of the gunners that it was a compact body of troops they had sighted. From the position of the ambulance corps in various battles it was shown that it was utterly impossible for the gunners to avoid striking the ambulances, as they were so mixed up with the firing lines. Splendid portraits of Sir Frederick Borden's son, who was shot through the heart; Sergt. Howden, Winnipeg, and various other soldiers with whom the audience were acquainted were shown. The lecturer kept his hearers in continual good humor by his descriptions of the scenes and numerous witty sallies. At the close a hearty vote of thanks was tendered the major for his excellent entertainment.—Free Press Evening News Bulletin, Feb. 26.

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Ophthalmic Surgeon:
Dr. J. W. GOOD, M.D.

Children's Ward Physicians:
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Dr. G. A. DUBUC, M.D.
Dr. A. J. SLATER, M.D.

Isolated Ward Physicians:
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Pathologist:
Dr. G. BELL, M.D.
Dr. F. J. MACLEAN, M.D.
Dr. WM. TURNBULL, M.D. Assistant

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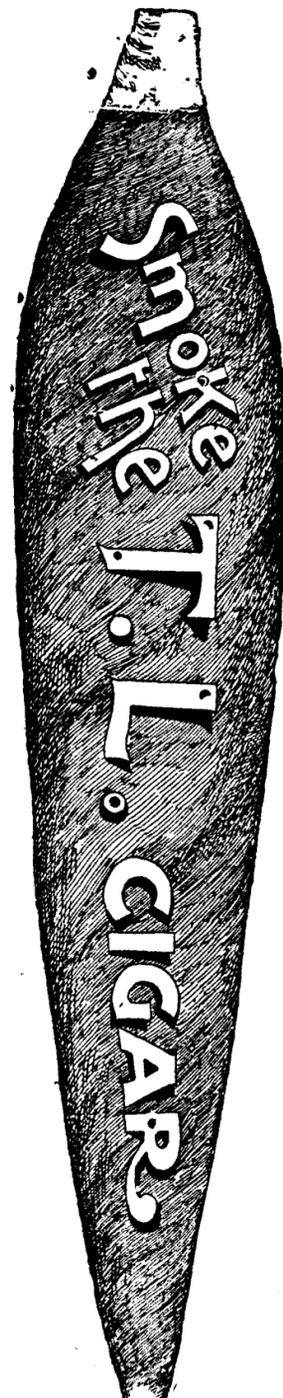
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