

FATHER LESTANC AND LOUIS RIEL.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

Sir,—The Rev. Dr. Bryce, in his interesting series appearing in your Saturday numbers, "The Illustrated History of Winnipeg," has occasionally made some slips, or inaccuracies, which have been noticed by some gentlemen in the city. This is not to be wondered at, when neither he, nor his informants perhaps, were personally cognizant of the facts.

But even from information, the public expect that a gentleman of the doctor's cloth and position will be a "true witness" to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Especially is this so, when a person's good name, or friendly feelings between new citizens and neighbors are threatened.

Without "taking sides" in this unfortunate insurrection of '69 (although nearly every word of the doctor's betrays his bias), I beg to say that having come here in 1867, I was an eye-witness of the Red river "troubles." I therefore solemnly protest against the vile imputation (in chapter VII of last Saturday) on Rev. Father Lestanc, as slanderous as well as untrue. The doctor says: "The loyalists point to a malign influence exerted on Riel by an Oblate Father, known as Pere Lestanc." And other words, "Riel's familiar" and "pretended to help Mr. Smith," plainly insinuating that Father Lestanc advised or approved the shooting of Mr. Scott.

Rev. Father Lestanc was spiritual adviser to Gov. Mactavish's family, since his marriage with Miss McDermott, and was godfather to his children, hence his "easy access" to government house. In the absence of Bishop Tache at the Vatican council, I can testify that he exerted all the influence a simple priest could have to preserve the peace of the country, and especially prevent the loss of life on both sides during those trying times.

The doctor says: "Bishop Macbray and almost all the leading men of Winnipeg implored Riel to spare him (Major Boulton)." Why not, in fairness and justice, admit that Father Lestanc, Father Giroux, and others from St. Boniface were there also on the same mission? I accompanied them myself, and heard these fathers warn Riel (in French) against the taking of human life. I recollect telling Major Boulton that Riel would not dare oppose their injunction. In fact, so much did Mr. Boulton consider his life due to Father Lestanc that he said to him, in my hearing, "Father, when I am free, my first visit will be to your house." And the following evening the major was our guest at dinner in the bishop's house.

Now, I cannot imagine how any reasonable or fair-minded man can say, or hint, that Father Lestanc, who so jealously fought for Boulton's life, would advise and plot against Scott's life. I declare it malicious and mischievous for Dr. Bryce to allow, on mere hearsay, this imputation to go abroad, before our new and mixed population of Winnipeg, on a Roman Catholic priest and an Oblate father.

The fact is, that on that fatal morning Father Lestanc was quite unaware that any such event was likely to occur. I was, I think, the first to give the alarm; for, seeing an unusually large gathering of men, outside the eastern wall of the fort, I notified the fathers that there was likely some trouble on the other side. Immediately Father Lestanc hastened, and ran across the river, but before he got half way the volley was fired. It was a terrible surprise to us all, and we realized that Riel took the matter in his own hands.

Another historical fact which the doctor did not publish, perhaps was not told, is that William O'Donohue, who was in Riel's counsels till then, positively refused to sanction the death sentence of Scott, or to sit at the court-martial to try him. This being so, I consider the epithet "scoundrel" O'Donohue as unmerited. These things I can vouch for from personal knowledge.

It is to be hoped that Dr. Bryce will insist on unbiased information, and thus give justice to all, as there were faults on both sides. In this connection, and seeing the tone of his writing, I feel justified in recalling to the doctor's mind, or informing him, that there was a "victim chosen" and "a horror" on the other side. Shortly after the "royal standard" was floating from the flagstaff of Fort Garry, General Wolseley's soldiers, strolling through the village, detected a half-breed, who they thought was a rebel,

whereas he was one of the loyal half-breeds, a brother of Roger Goulet, late of the Dominion lands office. They chased their man through the streets to the river, where, trying to swim across, he was pelted at, and died before crossing.

To terminate this disagreeable topic, I beg to say that as I consider Dr. Bryce a Christian gentleman, I trust he will vindicate the good name of Father Lestanc, one of the venerable and worthy old-timers of the northwest. And in spite of our religious differences and convictions, that he will be disposed to give fair play to all. Dr. Bryce will no doubt concur with the saying of another great doctor: "To err is human—to persevere diabolical—to repair is divine."

JOSEPH MCCARTHY, O.M.I.
St. Mary's, Feb. 20.

Editorial Note.—Dr. Bryce, in his reply, accumulated a lot of quotations to throw dust in the reader's eyes, but did not prove any of his points, though he retracted nothing, said nothing of the Goulet murder, and talked "not" about loyalty.

A FAIR-MINDED MINISTER

Unusual Discourse Entitled "An Attempt to Do Justice to the Roman Catholic Church."

Preaching in Ward Chapel, Dundee, Scotland, recently, Rev. Dr. K. C. Anderson made what he himself styled "an attempt to do justice to the Roman Catholic Church." Dr. Anderson remarked that there was a loyalty to one's own creed which was to be commended, but there was a higher duty even than that, and that was to be loyal to the spirit which was behind all forms of thought and worship. He did not think that justice was done to the Roman Catholic Church in the ordinary Protestant polemics—calling it the Scarlet Woman, and making the Church of to-day responsible for all the crime of the past. Its life had been full of action—not cycles of Cathay, but centuries of Europe had tested its quality. To judge it would be to attempt to sit in judgment on humanity. He declined to do that. He was content to call to mind some of the good things for which they were indebted to the Catholic Church. They were indebted to it for the emphasis it placed on the historic element in religion. In treating the past with contempt, they robbed the present and the future of its glory, and he confessed to the charm which a historic Church and a historic religion had upon him. The Roman Catholic Church told them that Christianity was a thing, not of to-day, but of all time. It was an ever living body of Christians, and the communion of saints was no mere phrase. It was the Church of the great theologians of the Middle Ages and of the artists of the Renaissance, and surely such a thing must have a charm with it. Closely connected with this historic continuity was the power of progress in the Roman Catholic Church. The charge of unchangeableness was made against it by its enemies, and it was claimed to be unchangeable by its friends. It was unjust to say that the Church was attached to its idols, and that reformation must come from without. The founders of the great monastic orders were all daring innovators in their way, while the late Pope wrote a letter on the labor question. The Protestant limited his revelation to a book, and in practice had narrowed it down to his own creed, and the result was stagnation. The Catholic avoided that difficulty, because he accepted the Church as the chief medium of revelation. Its growing experience would be accepted as part of divine revelation.

ANGLICAN BAPTISMS.

"With reference to baptisms in the Church of England," a correspondent writes to the London "Catholic Times", "may I be allowed to give a reference to 'The Life of Archbishop Benson, of Canterbury,' Vol. III, page 6. The Archbishop was brought up in Birmingham as a boy. And speaking of St. Martin's Church, Birmingham, he says: 'On Sunday there were held what were called "public christenings," at which the persons to be baptized were arranged round the communion rails and sprinkled from the font with a brush. My grandfather used to say that these "public christenings" were a scandal.'"

EVERY PHYSICIAN KNOWS

About the great merit of Dr. Hamilton's Pills of Mandrake and Butternut which cleanse the system, cure constipation and piles. Use only Dr. Hamilton's Pills. Price 25c.

Our honest belief is that we have brought Blue Ribbon Tea as near perfection as modern methods and materials will permit. Blue Ribbon Tea has a distinct individuality that lifts it above the line of comparison with other brands. Try it.

The Coupons are Worth Saving.

Day and Night School. Individual Instruction. One Week's Trial Given

THE NATIONAL Business College, LTD.
CAPITAL \$25,000.00
COR. MAIN & MARKET STREETS, WINNIPEG

THOROUGH COURSES in Bookkeeping, Shorthand, Typewriting, English, etc. For free Catalogue and other information call at office or write to O'SULLIVAN and LOOS, Principals. Corner Main and Market Streets. Phone 1955

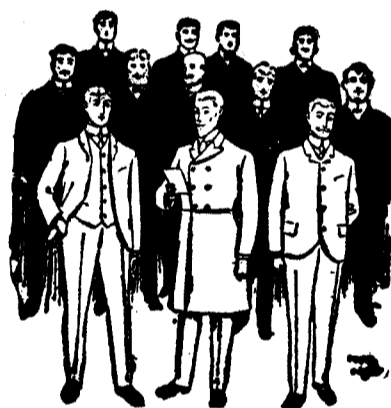
EPILEPTIC FITS

GUARANTEED CURE

Epilepsy, Falling Sickness, St. Vitus Dance,

Nervous Spasms or Convulsions permanently cured by the new discovery, VICTORINE, after all known means have failed to cure. If you are a sufferer, or know of one among your friends or relatives, do not delay, send for a treatment of VICTORINE, it will be sent by mail, no express charges or breakages, to any address in Canada or United States. Price, Two Dollars per treatment. We positively guarantee to effect a cure or refund every cent spent with us in case of failure. Register all letters containing money. Address:

THE VICTOR MEDICAL CO., Toronto, Can.



A JURY OF GENTLEMEN

famous for their taste and style in dress passed upon the merits of our

MADE-TO-ORDER CLOTHING

long ago. They decided, as all must, that it is perfect in every particular. They continue to favor us with their orders because we have reduced tailoring to an art and can give not only correct fit and the best workmanship, but also the best value.

C. L. Meyers & Co.

Men's Tailoring - Ladies' Tailoring.

276 Portage Ave., Opp. Y.M.C.A.

AGENTS WANTED

GOOD INCOMES Can be Secured

BY AN

(Whole or spare time) (Male or female)

English Manufacturer

Good wages and constant employment can be earned by intelligent agents.

FOR THE New Diamond Gold Pen

The New Diamond Gold Pen superior to the best Gold Pens cost ONE TENTH only. Points finished like Diamond Shape. One Nib will last for many months

Everywhere

Advantages of the New Diamond Pen:—Beautiful touch—glide smoothly over the paper—makes writing a pleasure—improves in use—durable—non-corrosible—one nib will last longer than grosses of steel nibs

Every man, woman, or child should use the New Diamond Pen.

To start at once send 40 cents (stamps will do) for Agents' Sample Box, or One Dollar for large size Sample Box post free by return to all parts of the world with particulars of the best paying agency.

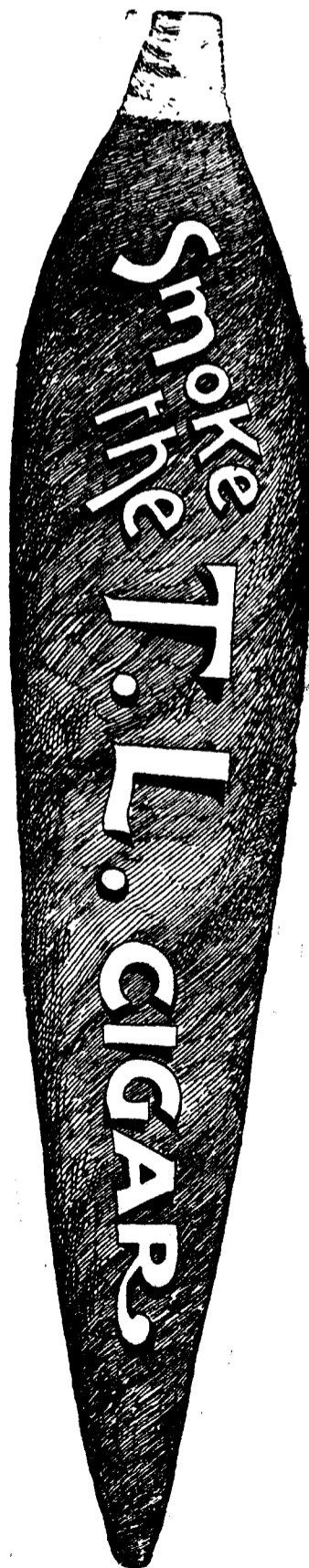
STANDARD CORPORATION, DIAMOND PEN WORKS,

49 Newgate Street, London, E.C. ENGLAND

(Postage for letter 5 cents).

GET YOUR RUBBER STAMPS at the Northwest Review, 219 McDermot Ave.

GET YOUR RUBBER STAMPS at the Northwest Review, 219 McDermot Ave.



Patrons will confer a favor on the publishers of the "Review" by mentioning its name when they call upon the advertisers