



CURRENT COMMENT

On Monday the cable described at great length the Holy Father's celebration of Mass at St. Peter's in honor of the thirteenth centenary of St. Gregory the Great. The Pope was then declared to be "in the best of health." On Tuesday one of our city dailies published, in ordinary type but with large headlines, the news that Pius X. was very ill, in fact in a state of nervous prostration from fear of an anarchist plot against his life. On Wednesday the same daily flatly contradicted—but this time in its smallest type and smallest headline—the false rumor about the Pontiff's illness. This last dispatch, the true one says:

Rome, April 13—Dr. Lapponi authorizes the associated press to deny that the Pope is ill. The Doctor visited the Pontiff this morning, as he does several times each week, but he was not called to attend the Pope. The latter, this morning, received a number of people.

We print this week two articles from a new and very capable contributor, who bids fair to lighten greatly the editor's labors. "Ian McEwan" in his "Practical Pointers," is all too merciful to Miss Marie Corelli. No first class critic has a good word to say for her style which attracts none but half-trained readers. She accumulates adjectives, mostly of the superlative degree with a reckless weakness that is paralleled only by her contempt for facts and her feline ferocity against the true religion.

The squabbles of our enemies often issue in an unconscious defence of Catholic doctrine or discipline. Canon Henson's recent attack on the credibility of the Scriptures, an attack in which no cogent reason for disbelieving them was to be found, but only reiterated assertion that they were, in parts, incredible, furnishes an instance in point. He declares that "indiscriminate reading of the Bible in public is an extremely perilous proceeding." A staunch Protestant, on reading this passage, remarked to a Catholic friend that this was precisely what learned Catholics have always maintained. In Catholic religious communities, where it is the custom to read the Bible from beginning to end in public, many marked passages are always omitted from the public reading, not because they are bad in themselves, but because they should be read prayerfully and in silence, lest their purpose should be misunderstood or the baldness of the narrative should shock the public ear. Canon Henson's onslaught has scandalized the Protestant Bible-reading people, but it falls like a harmless thunderbolt on Catholics who have not taken twenty centuries to discover that the Holy Book contains "certain things hard to be understood, which the unlearned and unstable wrest to their own destruction." (2 Pet., 3, 16).

There died lately in Superior, Wis., a Catholic who owes his edifying end to the zeal of his supposedly Protestant wife. Though baptized a Catholic some years ago, she was never properly instructed and seldom went to Church, so that her best friends thought she was still a Protestant. When, however, she saw her husband dying of an incurable disease, she called on a zealous Catholic doctor, who attended her husband and begged of him to get a priest to visit him, for she said she could not bear to see him die without the sacraments which he had long neglected. The priest went, saw and easily conquered the well-

meaning but negligent patient. He received the last sacraments in the best disposition, manifesting his gratitude to the priest, who then revealed to him the real promoter of his death bed conversion. He lingered longer than had been expected, and had twelve more weeks to complete his preparation for death. We bespeak our readers' prayers for the repose of his soul and the thorough Catholicizing of his noble widow.

Says the Sacred Heart Review: "Belgium has of late been held up to the execration of the world through reports that, in Central Africa, Belgian officers were guilty of the utmost cruelty in their treatment of the natives. Captain Burrows, an Englishman, seems to have been the chief disseminator of these reports. He, it seems, wrote a sensational book, entitled 'The Curse of Central Africa,' accusing Captain de Keyser, formerly in the service of the Congo Free State, of murdering natives, cutting off their hands and committing other atrocious crimes. Captain de Keyser, returning to Europe, brought suit against Burrows for libel and at the trial last week, Burrows dared not open his mouth. He offered no defence, and a verdict was rendered for de Keyser. American missionaries seem to have joined with Burrows in blackening the character of Belgians in Africa. We gravely suspect that if brought to trial in a court of law, they also would be as powerless to substantiate their charges as the Englishman Burrows. Isn't it strange, by the way, how these Anglo-Saxons, who cannot afford to throw stones at any nation, are constantly harping on the cruelty of other peoples?" No it is not strange at all. Few psychological phenomena are better established than is the well known tendency of the guilty conscience to attribute its own sins to the rest of mankind.

Persons and Facts

The Manitoba Daily Free Press, of April 12, had the following:

The long talked of French Roman Catholic parish in the city will be formed in the immediate future, and in addition to meeting the desires of a large French-speaking population, it will also relieve the pressure of the great congregation at St. Mary's church. A site for the church has been purchased upon the corner of Francis and McDermot, a most central and desirable location. A handsome edifice will be erected there in keeping with the section of the city and the traditions of the Church of Rome. It is one of the most central points available.

When the church has been erected and the parish organized it will remove the necessity which has arisen at St. Mary's of having an extra Mass celebrated in French and also of having the announcements read in two languages.

The Red River and Assiniboine are rising steadily, but there seems no danger of a disastrous flood. The average date of the running out of the ice in the Red—as we showed some years ago from statistics of nearly thirty years—is April 17. Though there are open spaces between the city bridges there has been as yet no general move of the Red River ice.

The continued cool weather keeps country roads in bad shape. Last week, between Minnedosa and Huns Valley no less than 17 horses were drowned in crossing pools of melted snow.

One of the most prominent Catholic Journalists in England, Mr. Edward Hulton, senior, died at Ashton-on-Mersey, March, 29.

He was proprietor and editor of three Manchester papers, the Sporting Chronicle, the Sunday Chronicle, and the Athletic News.

The Dublin "Freeman's Journal" says: The parliament of the Irish people, which is summoned to assemble on Thursday, April 21, will have questions of supreme national importance to decide. It is almost inevitable that Ireland will hold the balance of power at the next election, and that there is good hope that national self-government will be given to Ireland in return for her determined support.

The Laetare medal, the highest expression of esteem within the gift of Notre Dame University, Indiana, annually bestowed on some American lay Catholic for moral excellence, civic worth, and distinguished service to humanity, has this year been conferred on the Hon. Richard C. Kerens, of St. Louis. Mr. Kerens, who was born in Ireland, was a soldier. In times of peace he has been the adviser of statesmen and of presidents. All who know him say he fully deserves this unique distinction.

We learn from English Catholic journals that the Holy Father granted a dispensation from abstinence, but not from fasting, on Friday, March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, to all Catholics in England.

Miss Mary E. Richardson, of Drayton Park, London, N., was received into the Church on Sunday, the 13th inst., by Father Crowley of Fulham.

The Dublin Corporation has decided to make the Irish language an obligatory subject at all future competitive examinations for clerks in the service of the Council.

Lord Plunket, the newly appointed governor of New Zealand, will proceed to that colony on May 5, with Lady Plunket, in the Shaw, Savill, and Albion liner Gothic.

The Rev. A. Beaumont, of Deposit, U.S.A., is the latest recruit to the ranks of the great army of Episcopalian clergymen who within the past few years have surrendered their pulpits, made profession of faith, and joined in the pilgrimage "Back to Rome." Mr. Beaumont and his wife have, says the "Syracuse Sun," been received into the Church by the Rev. William Pouch, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Deposit.

There is at the present time an inmate in Sligo Workhouse named Bridget Somers who has reached the remarkable age of 114 years. She can, it is said, dance a hornpipe, jig, or reel, with a step as light and as elastic as if she had only seen twenty summers.

Archbishop Farley, of New York, after his recent audience with Pope Pius X. said: "I was particularly impressed with the fact that the Pope appeared to be a man of great physical power, and I think that in the natural order of events he will live to a very ripe old age."

Dr. Elgar interviewed by a representative of the "Daily News," spoke, says the interviewer, with some bitterness "of the undignified attitude of our governing classes towards the art of music." While the world of fashion, as well as the middle classes—the real supporters of music—were honoring the art at Covent Garden, at the other end of the town our legislators were heaping indignities on it by whittling down the Musical Copyright Bill by inserting clauses which will make it quite inoperative. The public cannot reconcile

music with any other human activity. It is a thing apart, and the Committee on the Copyright Bill is evidently determined that the composer shall be a hermit." It is interesting to know that Dr. Elgar is at present writing music for chorus and orchestra to an ode of Arthur O'Shaughnessy.

Clerical News.

His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface, who had made the official visitation of his cathedral last Sunday, left on Tuesday for Montreal, whence, in two or three weeks he will go to St. John, and take the C.P.R. steamship line for England. He was accompanied by Rev. Father Mireault, and will meet in Montreal Rev. Father Lacombe, who will be his companion during their five months' journey to the Holy Land, Rome, Austria, Belgium and other European points. Archbishop Langevin intends visiting Austria in order to further the interests of the Galicians here. He will also be present as official delegate at the General Chapter of his Congregation in August at Liege, Belgium.

Rev. Father Cahill, O.M.I., pastor of St. Mary's, is laid up with la grippe at St. Boniface Hospital.

The Rev. Thomas F. Cusack, Superior of the New York Apostolate, a band of diocesan priests engaged in giving missions to Catholics and non-Catholics, has been appointed Auxiliary Bishop of New York.

The Right Rev. Peter Emmanuel Amigo, of whom all speak in the highest praise of his priestly virtues, was consecrated and enthroned Bishop of Southwark in St. George's Cathedral, London, on March 25, Lady-Day.

The Right Rev. Richard Phelan, D.D., Bishop of Pittsburg, U.S.A., will celebrate the golden jubilee of his priesthood on May 4 of this year. The priests of the diocese, under the lead of Very Rev. P. L. Tobin, V.G., are preparing for an appropriate celebration.

His Eminence Cardinal Logue will complete the 25th year of his Episcopate on Sunday, July 24th, and on that day the magnificent Cathedral of Armagh will be solemnly consecrated.

Rev. Father Veilleux, S.J., left last week for Ishpeming, Mich., to help Rev. Father Proulx in a fortnight's mission.

The Abbe Loisy has forwarded to the Vatican a third formula of submission, which is said to be more likely to meet the wishes of the ecclesiastical authorities. The Pope, says the Paris correspondent of the "Daily Chronicle," has written to Cardinal Richard counselling him to display brotherly love in his dealings with the Abbe. "Pope Pius," adds the correspondent, "has himself perused in French the Abbe Loisy's chief writings. He confesses that he encountered therein much that he failed to understand, and more which struck him as exceedingly daring, dangerous, and untenable. Yet without the Pontiff is loath to become a party to the Abbe Loisy being hounded from out the Roman communion by the intemperate zeal of adversaries."

Rev. Father Melleux arrived from Vancouver last week and went Saturday to Rainy River, where he will be stationed in future.

Rev. Father Gladu, O.M.I., who came here on Friday of last week to labor in this diocese, was here in 1878, 26 years ago. He then

came at Archbishop Tache's request to take charge of St. Boniface College, but on arrival he found that the Oblate Fathers had withdrawn from the management of the College, which was confided to secular priests under the direction of the late lamented Father Forget. Father Gladu, however, remained here as professor in the College and afterwards as assistant priest at St. Mary's, his entire stay in Manitoba extending over a year and a half.

Rev. Father Conaty, of Grand Forks, spent a couple of days with the Oblate Fathers of St. Mary's this week.

Rev. Father Maillard, of St. Lazare, near Fort Ellice, came in on Monday and returned on Friday of this week. He says his district is fast filling up with settlers.

Rev. Father Lacasse, O.M.I., came down from St. Laurent on Thursday and reports the roads in shocking condition. He returned on Friday.

Rev. Father Woodcutter, who has been travelling in Europe, is on his way to the Hungarian colony at Esterhazy with a large party of immigrants who are expected to arrive on the 15th inst. This party consists of 24 Hungarians, 24 Germans, 28 Belgians, 10 Irish and 117 Galicians. Father Langaniere, who is in the employ of the immigration department, is also sending a party of sixty and on the same train will be 20 British, 16 Italians, 20 Germans and 2 Scandinavians who arrived in Halifax Tuesday.

The Venerable Father Dandurand O.M.I., of the Archbishop's Palace, mourns the loss of one of his first cousins, Madame Victorine Comte, a religious of the Sacred Heart, who departed this life in most edifying sentiments on the Feast of the Annunciation in the convent of her order at Halifax. She was 59 years old and had spent 29 years in religion.—R.I.P.

Rev. Father Gladu was glad to meet here Rev. Father Cherrier, who was his companion in the first journey they made to Manitoba 26 years ago.

Regina Notes.

Rev. Father Kasper, O.M.I., spent Sunday at Moose Jaw. Rev. Father Suffa and Kim, O.M.I., passed Sunday in the city. Rev. Father Suffa, O.M.I., celebrated High Mass at 9.30 and preached in German, while Rev. Father Kim, O.M.I., celebrated High Mass at 11 and preached in English. The sermon was a most practical one, and showed throughout most earnest thought and study. The text was: "Peace be unto you" the words taken from the gospel. The discourse was an earnest exhortation to those who had faithfully performed their Easter duties to continue in the State of Grace. The means given were: distrust in self and earnest prayer and vigilance. We have not heard Rev. Father Kim preach in English since his arrival last fall in Regina and his sermon was one his hearers will not soon forget.

Miss Lannon and Miss Marr of Prince Edward Island arrived Sunday morning in Regina and will teach in the territories. We are more than pleased to see these Catholic young ladies in our midst and heartily welcome them to the North West. There is room for many more.

The roads are simply impassable in the country, as under the snow there seems to be a great deal of water. Accidents have happened owing to this circumstance, so