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BRIEFLETS.

Mr. N. Comeau, merchant of St. Jean, was in town last week.

Patient—Oh, doctor, if I could only die!

Doctor—I'm doing my best for you.—World's Comic.

For Christmas Rev. Father Grenier, S. J., went to Fannytelle, Rev. Father Blain, S. J., to St. Jean Baptiste and Rev. Father Lebel S. J., to Portage la Prairie.

The Sisters of Misericorde tender their best thanks to their many friends who so kindly and so generously assist them in furnishing provisioning their present residence.

"L'Ouest Canadien" advertises for farms to let on shares or otherwise for ten French Canadian colonists who are in correspondence with Father Morin and who want to try the land before buying it.

The official returns on the state of the population of France for 1897 show an increase of 108,088 in the population, due not to an increase of the birth-rate, but to a diminution in the number of deaths.

Boston, Dec. 21.—The recent storm cut a navigable channel between Scituate and Marshfield at the mouth of the North River, at a point where the national government tried unsuccessfully to make a channel when John Quincy Adams was president.

It is rumored that the Holy Father intends to establish the ecclesiastical hierarchy in China. There would be an apostolic delegation at Peking like the one in Constantinople. The prefectures and vicariates would be erected into bishoprics and archbishoprics.

Mr. D. Smith, inspector of Dominion public works, is going to erect immediately an immigration hall at Yorkton, in order that it will be ready for the use of the Doukhobors when they arrive. The hall will be similar to the one built at Dauphin last spring, and will cost about \$3,000.

Mr. D. Smith, inspector of public works, has received instructions from the government to make changes in the Customs and Dominion land offices which he had recommended. The ground floor of the customs office will be repaired. The improvements will not be made till spring.

Two little Irish maidens, Katie and Sarah Reddy, of Shannon Bridge, though but 11 and 10 years old, plunged into the River Shannon to rescue a suicide, and, on his breaking away from them, one of them followed him again into the water while the other ran for help. This brave act certainly deserves a medal from the Royal Humane Society.

The latest number of "L'Ouest Canadien," the bright Edmonton paper, informs us that Messrs. Geo. Roy, J. H. Picard and P. McNamara have been elected school trustees to succeed Messrs. S. Larue, C. Gallagher, and N. D. Beck. Q. C. From the same source we learn that the N. W. Territories Law Society has elected the following representatives: N. D. Beck, Q. C., Edmonton; W. B. Hamilton, Regina; Jas. Mackay, Prince Albert; E. L. Elwood, Moosomin; C. F. P. Conybeare, Lethbridge; P. McCarr-

thy, C. C. McCaul, J. A. Lougheed, Calgary.

High mass was celebrated on Thursday morning in the Church of the Immaculate Conception for the late Mr. Poulin, father of Mrs. Geo. Germain, of Winnipeg who died on Dec. 22, 1897. Rev. Father Cherrier conducted the service, and special music was rendered by the choir. The service lasted two hours, and was largely attended by the friends of Mr. and Mrs. Germain.

Many thanks to the Montreal Herald and the Winnipeg Tribune for their gorgeous supplement on "Montreal and the St. Lawrence Route." As usual in these business ventures by Protestant merchants the immense majority of Montreal—its Catholic institutions (which do fifty times as much good as the Protestant ones) are as far as possible, ignored.

His Grace the Archbishop of Montreal has addressed a friendly letter to some of the newspapers in his diocese, recalling the good feeling shown him by the press shortly after his consecration, and warning them against the dangers of sensational journalism, which, by the detailed description and pictorial representation of crime, is calculated to produce a very bad impression on the imagination of the masses.

The Sisters of St. Boniface Hospital acknowledge with thanks the following Christmas offerings: McGregor municipality, \$50; Taché municipality, \$125; Mr. A. Macdonald, \$40; The Standard Oil Co., one barrel of kerosene; Mrs. A. McIntyre, one barrel of apples; Mrs. N. Bawlf, one case of oranges; Dr. Bell, a mirror; Mr. Ed. Drewry, 8 doz. beer; Messrs. Sutherland and Campbell, groceries; Mr. G. Galt, groceries; Mr. James Rodgers, fruits and cigars; Mrs. F. Gautier, boubons.

CONCERT OF NOTRE DAME.

Rat Portage News.

A musical treat of superior order was served to those present at the Church of Notre Dame du Portage on Thursday evening. The concert was given to celebrate the inauguration of a very fine organ, the largest in Rat Portage, which has recently been placed in the building, and the vocalists, the musicians, and the performers in the pleasing and instructive sacred pieces or dramas did honor to the occasion.

The program was commenced with a selection by the Rat Portage orchestra, followed with an organ solo by Mr. Bétournay, organist of the Immaculate Conception Church of Winnipeg. The grand tones of the instrument, under the practical hand of an artist of Mr. Bétournay's talent, produced a strong impression on lovers of music in the audience and many expressions of appreciation were forthcoming after the rendition of his first number.

A pastorelle—Lambillotte—by the Keewatin choir, Mrs. Lalonde and family, next followed, after which The Lost Chord, sung by Mrs. Sigurdson, held the audience to the closest attention. Justus ut Palma—daet—Mrs. Sigurdson and Mr. LeVègue, with violin obligato by Mr. P. L'Heureux and organ accompaniment, was without doubt the gem of the evening. This number alone was well worth the price of admission and will remain long in the memory of those who had the good fortune to be present.

Keewatin is fortunate in the possession of the Lalonde family who gave another number to the

programme which won well deserved applause.

"Treason and Despair of Judas," a solo by Mr. LeVègue, was very impressive as given by the powerful bass voice of the singer.

A striking illustration of the careful training given by the Sisters of St. Joseph's Academy could be seen in the recitations in English, (Dorothy's Roses), and in French, (The Annunciation), by those of the younger pupils of the school. Not only were they letter-perfect in their parts, but the pronunciation of both languages, by the same children, was such that both would be taken for their native tongue. Two of the children were daughters of Mr. P. L'Heureux, of Norman, and the other the child of Mr. Billodeau of the same place. A drama by the older pupils ending with an effective transformation scene brought the performance to a close. Rev. Fathers Poitras and Thibeau are to be congratulated on the success of this concert.

REFORM IN SPAIN.

Liverpool Catholic Times.

The war will not be altogether a disaster to Spain if it proceeds steadily on the path of reform. And there are signs that progress is being made. The electoral system is to be modified through the establishment of provincial and municipal committees by the various classes of the people including the toilers, the formation of groups from amongst the majority of the population, and the grouping of villages of more than a thousand inhabitants into municipalities. Permanent municipal commissions are to be entrusted with the elections of mayors and the administration of municipal councils. The holding of any State employment or connection with railway companies is to be deemed incompatible with the duties of senators and deputies, official posts are largely to be filled by technical experts, and steps are to be taken to improve the position of the workers. Some at least of these reforms must do much to counteract inertness, which is stated to be a feature of Spanish official life.



When a man who has neglected his health finally realizes that he is being attacked by serious illness it is no time for half-way measures. Death is an enemy that must be knocked out in the first round, or he is pretty sure to conquer in the end.

A weak stomach, an impaired digestion and a disordered liver mean that a man is fighting the first round with death. Unless he manages to strike the knock-out blow, it means that death will come up in the second round in the guise of some serious malady. When a man's stomach is weak and his digestion is impaired, the life-giving elements of the food he takes are not assimilated into the blood. The blood gets thin and weak, and the body slowly starves. In the meantime the disordered liver and the sluggish bowels have forced into the blood all manner of impurities. The body is hungry and eagerly consumes anything that the bloodstream carries to it. In place of healthy nutriment, it receives for food foul poisons that should have been excreted by the bowels. Continued, this system of starvation combined with poisoning, will wreck every organ in the body. Naturally, the weakest organ will give way first. If a man is naturally nervous, he will break down with nervous exhaustion or prostration. If he inherits weak lungs, the consequence will be consumption, bronchitis, or some disease of the air-passages. If he has a naturally sluggish liver, he will suffer from a serious bilious or malarial attack. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures all disorders of the stomach, digestion and liver. It purifies the blood and fills it with the life-giving elements of the food that build new and healthy tissue. It is the great blood-maker and flesh-builder and nerve tonic. It cures 98 per cent. of all cases of consumption. Thousands have testified to their recovery from this dread disease under this great medicine.

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