



Current Comment

The Holy Father's Encyclical, of which we published a telegraphic summary three weeks ago, is now published entire on another page of this issue. It is addressed "To our well beloved sons, Francois Marie Richard, Cardinal Priest of Holy Roman Church, Archbishop of Paris; Victor Lucien Lecot, Cardinal Priest of Holy Roman Church, Archbishop of Bordeaux; Pierre Hector Coullie, Cardinal Priest of Holy Roman Church, Archbishop of Lyons; Joseph Guillaume Laboure, Cardinal Priest of Holy Roman Church, Archbishop of Rennes, and to all our venerable brethren, the Archbishops and Bishops, and to all the Clergy and People of France." His Holiness first protests, with truly apostolic dignity, against the action of the French Government in breaking the Concordat with the manifest purpose of destroying Christianity in France. He shows how that government gave him no intimation that the separation was to be effected, and that the rulers of France failed in extending to him the courtesy due even to the smallest States. He condemns the principle that the State must be separated from the Church as "an absolutely false proposition, a most pernicious error." After setting forth the motives of this condemnation Pope Pius X. reiterates it more explicitly and solemnly in the following terms: "Hence, mindful of Our Apostolic charge and conscious of the imperative duty incumbent on Us of defending and preserving against all assaults the full and absolute integrity of the sacred and inviolable rights of the Church, we do, by virtue of the supreme authority which God has conferred on Us, and on the grounds above set forth, reprove and condemn the law voted in France for the separation of Church and State, as deeply unjust to God whom it denies, and as laying down the principle that the Republic recognizes no cult. We reprove and condemn it as violating the natural law, the law of nations, and fidelity to treaties; as contrary to the Divine constitution of the Church, to her essential rights and to her liberty; as destroying justice and trampling under foot the rights of property which the Church has acquired by many titles and, in addition, by virtue of the Concordat. We reprove and condemn it as gravely offensive to the dignity of the Apostolic See, to Our own person, to the Episcopacy and to the clergy, and all the Catholics of France. Therefore, We protest solemnly and with all Our strength against the introduction, the voting, and the promulgation of this law, declaring that it can never be alleged against the imprescriptible rights of the Church" ("Tablet" translation).

While exhorting the French Catholics to zeal and patience, the Sovereign Pontiff adds: "It is our firm intention to give you at a fitting time practical instructions which shall serve as a sure rule of conduct for you amid the great difficulties of the present time. And we are certain in advance that you will faithfully adopt them." This assurance of future practical instructions to the French clergy will greatly allay the impatience of those of them who chafed under the delay of these long expected instructions. Pius X. is reported to have said to someone who mentioned that eager expectation: "Tell them to possess their souls in patience; they are too hasty; I will speak when the time is ripe." And we all know that it is not fear nor diplomacy, but prudence that makes him bid his time.

On Thursday of last week the "Free Press" reproduced a long and scurrilous article from the "Western Banner," which attacked the Provincial Government for, as it alleged, favoring the Catholics in the matter of schools, and which held up to ridicule Mr. J. T. Gordon, M.L.A. for South Winnipeg, and Mr. Sampson Walker, for their dealings with the Catholic school trustees. That very day the provincial

grand-lodge of the Orange order in Manitoba, sitting in the Scott Memorial Hall, solemnly repudiated the "Western Banner," which had hitherto been considered the Orange organ, made ample apology to Messrs. Gordon and Walker, expressed its full confidence in the local Government, and endorsed the founding of a new journal that would truly represent the interests of Orangemen in this country. This repudiation is doubtless due to the intervention of the Hon. D. H. McFadden and Mr. James Argue, M.L.A., the Orange order's representative in the Manitoba cabinet. Mr. Argue, being the present grand master of the Manitoba Orangemen, whipped them into due subjection to the Conservative Government. Thus party discipline prevailed over sectional animosity. But the Loyal Brethren got a substantial sop in the shape of solemn approval of the Roblin government's refusal to be dictated to by the "papal ablegate" (sic), and of an equally solemn condemnation of the autonomy bill. Their tender consciences being in this way comforted, the sanctimonious cohort after first declaring, without even the proverbial smile of the Roman augurs, that "the Loyal Orange association is thoroughly Protestant and religious and is strictly undenominational," lifted their eyes heavenward and hailed "with delight and unqualified satisfaction"—a choice example, by the way, of anticlimax—"the movement to effect the consummated union of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches in Canada," which will, of course, promptly effect the intended consummation or, shall we say? consummate the intended effect. For though Orangemen abominate all clerical influence, they, with charming inconsistency, blindly obey the behests of the grand lodge and sternly exact blind obedience from all who come within their tyrannical sphere of action.

Last Monday's "Tribune," although it did not, as we suggested, republish our article on compulsory education, made a handsome apology for misunderstanding our view. But it deplored our ignorance of the virtues of Masonry. "It has often caused persons who know the Masons," writes our esteemed contemporary, "great surprise to hear and read Roman Catholic references to them seemingly based on the supposition that they are a band of conspirators, sworn enemies of Christianity in general and the Catholic Church in particular. This erroneous opinion of Masonry originated in Continental Europe, where there is some (!) reason in the prejudice against the order. In English-speaking countries neither the Catholic Church nor any other Church has reason to regard the Masons as its enemies. The members of the order attend to their own affairs and make absolutely no attempt to interfere with Christian churches." Many times have we heard and read that style of defence; but it is merely dust thrown in the eyes of the unwary. Those who are in the deeper secrets of Masonry know very well that all the lodges of the world are really united. Long after the English speaking lodges had ostensibly separated from the French Grand Orient because it repudiated belief in God, the French official publications contained annual reports of the lodges of the British Empire. We have seen in one of them the names and degrees of the chief Masonic officers of Winnipeg, and when we mentioned these names to a past grand master he had nothing to offer by way of explanation. At the annual banquet of a Lodge of Perfection in Winnipeg a little more than a year ago one of the toasts was: "To all Masons and Masonic Bodies of all Rites and degrees over the surface of the world, honors and laurels to the worthy, health to the sick, comfort to the needy, and succor to the oppressed everywhere." What does this mean if not

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LYCEUM PRESIDENT

Thomas J. Coyle, the first President of St. Mary's Lyceum, was continued in office for another year, when he was unanimously re-elected last week at the annual meeting. Mr. Coyle is one of the best and most favorably known Catholic young men of Winnipeg. Since the days he attended the Brothers' school, he has been intimately identified



THOS. J. COYLE
Re-elected as Executive Head of St. Mary's Lyceum

with Catholic affairs, and he has sacrificed much of his time to the promotion of Catholic interests generally. As President of the Lyceum he has shown himself to possess all the qualities desirable in that officer,—a Catholic view of affairs, energy, experience, resourcefulness in pushing plans to accomplishment and a rare devotion to the cause.

LYCEUM NOTES

The annual elections, held on Thursday of last week, resulted as follows: Chaplain,—Rev. C. Cahill, O.M.I., President,—T. J. Coyle; First Vice-President,—T. J. Murray; Second Vice-President,—H. R. McCabe; Secretary,—J. A. Barry; Treasurer,—F. E. Cantwell; Librarian,—F. Pillely. Executive Committee.—M. O'Connor, A. Donnelly, F. X. Jobin, F. Flanigan, J. Coyle, W. Barry and C. Pillely. There were keen contests for the offices, notably those of Second Vice-President, Librarian and the Executive Committee. The elections were interspersed with entertainment.

The new Executive Board met on Saturday evening and elected the following Standing Committees, whose functions are to carry on the several branches of Lyceum activities: Pastor's Auxiliary.—T. J. Coyle, F. E. Cantwell, W. Nicholl. Literary.—T. J. Murray, H. R. McCabe, F. X. Jobin. Musical.—E. Taylor, H. H. Cottingham, F. Flanigan. Athletic.—J. Coyle, P. Egan, P. Nyland. Entertainment.—A. Donnelly, J. Cunnin, J. Dorgan. Membership.—W. Barry, A. McDonald, J. Burns. Visiting.—C. Pillely, M. O'Connor, J. McCarthy.

The Lyceum hockey team was defeated by the Victorians on Wednesday night at the Auditorium. The Lyceum seemed to have the game well in hand, leading often by two points, but finally lost by a score of 6 to 5. Several delays towards the end of the game created confusion and distracted the Lyceum players.

The orchestra is playing in fine form at present. Two rehearsals were held this week under its competent conductor, Mr. James Stack, when some new selections were added to its repertory.

Candidates for the handball tournament are requested to leave their names with Messrs. Harrington and McCarthy.

Persons and Facts

Mrs. Craigie, the celebrated novelist and dramatist, whose pen-name is John Oliver Hobbes, and who became a Catholic in 1892 at the age of 25, recently visited the United States. While in New York she lectured on St. Ignatius, Wesley and Tolstoy at St. Francis Xavier's in aid of one of the cathedral charities. The Archbishop of New York was present.

A remarkable old man named James M'Nally, who is an inmate of the Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Meadow-road, South Lambeth, London, has just entered upon his 110th year. M'Nally, who was a scaffolder by trade, was born in King's County, Ireland, on February 15th, 1797, four years previous to the Union of England and Ireland, and when George III. was on the throne. Thus he has lived in three centuries, and during the reigns of five English sovereigns. Notwithstanding his great age, M'Nally is still in possession of all his faculties, his memory carrying him back to events that happened at the beginning of the last century, about which he will talk with a wonderful volubility to any visitors who may call to see him. Until he was eighty-five he went regularly to work every day, and even at that age was able to climb ladders carrying a hod of bricks. Fourteen years ago he entered the Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Breakfast is M'Nally's principal and sometimes his only meal during the day. He enjoys his pipe regularly. Each of his birthdays is celebrated by a fete in the Home, in which all the inmates, some 300 in number, as well as the staff, participate. Two years ago, when M'Nally's great age was brought to the notice of the King, His Majesty sent an official to the Home to inquire after him, and subsequently sent him a present.

In Buffalo lately the business men of the city offered a prize for the best essay. Six thousand pupils competed, and the first two on the list were pupils of parochial schools. The same thing occurred in Manitoba a few years ago. Prizes were offered for the best short stories written by pupils at school. The first two were Catholic girls attending convent schools. Is it not about time our enemies should give up the inferiority cry?

An article in the "Revue des Deux Mondes," by George Goyan, describes the condition of the government schools in France since the Catholic teachers have been driven out. The rules of attendance are not enforced, there is a steady decline in numbers, and many pupils leave without knowing their alphabet, so that illiteracy, which was almost unknown in France, is now becoming common. The teachers are inferior and not respected; as they are not exempt from military service, the supply is inadequate; of those who are employed many are used as electioneering agents, their promotion depending upon their anti-Catholic zeal. The teachers have lately formed a union for an increase of salary, which will mean an additional burden of 44 million francs, besides the extra expense to which the government is put by the suppression of the religious schools. Many of the teachers are regarded as Anarchists.

The Right Hon. Augustine Birrell, the new Minister of Education in England, has announced that his will be "the bill of the session," letting it be understood that he is going to sweep the voluntary schools out of existence. They are all to be under government control. That means that he will have to destroy 11,817 Church of England schools, 450 Methodist, 1,063 Catholic, 13 Jewish and 79 British. Many of these properties are held in trust for educational purposes and cannot be closed. How that difficulty is to be dealt with is not yet explained.

Between 1870 and 1902 the Catholics of Great Britain have contributed to

four million pounds. Their contribution in rates to the Board schools, to which they never sent their children cannot easily be estimated.

One of the most singular facts connected with the present crusade against the Church in France is the amazing withdrawals from the National Savings Bank. The "Journal Officiel" for the week ending February 10 registered an excess of withdrawals of 6,700,223.98 francs over the amount of the deposits entered. The excess of deposits for the corresponding period in 1905 reached the total of 2,500,000 francs, whereas this year the excess was of withdrawals. We also learn that, on account of the religious persecution and of the general feeling of alarm and unrest, the British banks and safe deposits in London are so repleted with gold and silver plate and jewels sent over from France for safety by members of the aristocracy and wealthier classes that they already announce they will have difficulty in receiving any more. All these are signs which escape the average correspondent's attention, but which are affording great anxiety to the French Government. You cannot overthrow a religion which has lasted for fourteen hundred years and has withstood several great revolutions, without upsetting the whole social system of the country. The curious part of the affair is that the London papers, even when they are Conservative, praise the French Government as the best the world has ever seen, and hold it up as an example worthy to be copied, regardless of the fact that the majority of its ministers are Socialists of the reddest type, and blatant atheists into the bargain.—Catholic Times, Feb. 23.

Professor Schiaparelli, of Milan, who discovered the canals of Mars, is not only a good Catholic but an earnest worker for Catholic missions. He it was who brought about the National Association for the help of Italian missionaries, with which he still energetically co-operates. The results achieved by this association among the inhabitants of Africa are very great.

The Yorkshire Daily Observer, of March 11, says that Mr. Charles Devlin, M.P. for Galway, who represented Ottawa and Wright counties in the Canadian House of Commons (1891-97), is generally considered one of the most intellectual and witty members of the Irish Nationalist party.

Wanted: Subscription solicitor, lady or gentleman for Northwest Review, the only Catholic newspaper in the West. Liberal terms. Apply The Business Manager Northwest Review.

Rome, March 12.—The Pope received to-day in private audience, J. Pierpont Morgan, H. B. Hollins, Mrs. Hollins and Miss Hollins, all of New York. The audience occurred in the Pope's library and merely consisted of an exchange of compliments, the Pontiff expressing his appreciation of the kindness of Mr. Morgan in visiting him and recalling his visit of last May. The Pope blessed some religious objects handed to him by Mrs. and Miss Hollins.

Rome, March 10.—The Pope, who is personally interesting himself in the forthcoming wedding of the King of Spain, has given detailed instructions in order to facilitate the arrangements for the conversion of Princess Ena. His Holiness has drafted a letter to King Edward expressing his satisfaction at the union of the British and Spanish royal houses. Incidentally he recalls the cordiality which marked the relations between the Court of St. James and the Vatican during the time of Queen Victoria and Leo XIII.

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