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ST. JOSEPH'S ORPHANAGE.

The Latest Organization in the City.

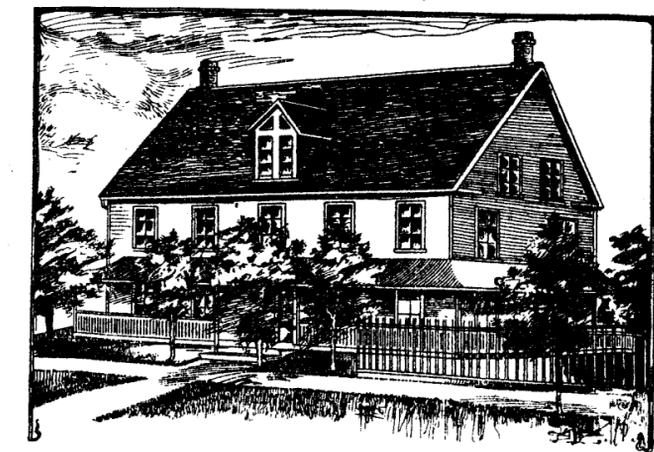
BIT OF CHURCH HISTORY.

The Old St. Mary's Presbytery, the first Catholic Church in Winnipeg to be Given up for the Orphans and Homeless Boys, and Replaced by a Handsome and Modern Home for the Oblate Fathers.

For some years the Catholics of Manitoba have been face to face with the necessity of providing a place of shelter for orphan and homeless boys, but up to quite recently, notwithstanding their intense eagerness to found an institution of the kind, and their willingness to make considerable sacrifices to accomplish their desires, other matters with which they have had to deal have pressed so heavily upon them that they have been absolutely unable to make a practical start. Recently, however, the real need of a boys' orphanage has become more urgent than ever before, and at a mass meeting of the Catholics of Winnipeg and St. Boniface held a few weeks ago it was unanimously determined that at least a commencement should be made, and a committee was appointed to go at once into details. The problem that confronted this committee had been considerably simplified by the announcement made by His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface that after July next two Sisters of Charity could be spared by their community to take charge of the institution, but although this was an important consideration admirably provided for there were other points which required earnest thought. From information at hand the committee were aware that the annual number of applications for admission to the home might certainly be put at something over fifty and the first thing to decide was whether or not there was any way of assuring the considerable annual amount which would be needed for an establishment able to receive all comers. It was eventually decided that this could be done by the formation of a regular association with a membership fee placed at the minimum sum of \$5, and the fact that nearly one thousand dollars annually had been promised by those who attended the first meeting was taken by the committee as a complete justification for the conclusion they came to that the necessary funds would be forthcoming. Having settled this important point another knotty question presented itself for solution and that was—the site. Here some happy inspiration prompted one of the committee to suggest that the present presbytery of St. Mary's church would make an excellent home. The suggestion was, to say the least of it startling at first, inasmuch as it carried with it many weighty considerations. Everyone agreed that no better location could be secured; near the church, almost in the heart of the city easily accessible, roomy and substantially built, its adaptability to the purpose was evident to all—but was the scheme a practicable one? Could the Fathers be induced to give up the home that had been their's for twenty-five years and to which they were so deeply attached not only by personal association, but also by reason of the memories which centred in and around their beloved presbytery? And, if in the interests of the waifs and strays of the archdiocese they would make the sacrifice was it reasonable to ask them to shoulder the immense obligations which the erection of a new and permanent presbytery would entail? Long and anxiously were these questions discussed, and at last it was decided to lay the matter before His Grace the Archbishop. It may here be remarked that none takes a greater interest in the proposed orphanage than does his grace. He knows the need of it better than anyone else, for it is to him as the spiritual father of the archdiocese that all the homeless little ones of his flock look for succor in their hour of need, but anxious as he was to see the movement a success, he naturally hesitated when the suggestion as to St. Mary's presbytery was first presented to him. Not for long, however, did he withhold his approval, and soon the committee received the welcome answer to "in God's name" go on. On presenting their report to a subsequent general meeting the proposal was adopted unanimously and with considerable enthusiasm, and the committee are now at work completing the organization. As orphans will be received into the home

from all parts of the archdiocese, they are making a general appeal for subscriptions. Everyone who gives an annual sum of \$5 will be entitled to membership in St. Joseph's Orphan's Home association. Very soon a meeting of the subscribers will be called for the completion of the regular organization, at which a constitution will be framed and the permanent officers elected. The present committee in charge of the work are the following:

M. McManus, L.O. Genest, N. Bawlf, J. R. Wynne, Jos. Fahey, J. Landers, J. J. Tomlinson, A. Macdonald, J. Bertrand, R. Driscoll, J. G. Carroll, A. H. Kennedy, P. Marrin, P. Shea, J. K. Barrett, P. O'Donnell, J. Bertrand, J. Tobin, H. Fournier, J. A. McInnes, D. Smith, J. J. Golden, A. Lucier, J. F. Dunocheil, S. M. Barre, H. Beliveau, J. B. Lauzon, M. P. P. M. Rocan, Deschambault, N. Bergeron, E. Guilbault, S. A. D. Bertrand, Mondor, Justice Dubuc, Judge Prud'homme, Judge Prendergast, Theo. Bertrand, L. N. Betournay, Victor Mager, R. Goulet,



THE OLD PRESBYTERY OF ST. MARY'S

To be used as a Home for Orphans and Homeless Boys.

Rev. Father Guillet, O. M. I., Rev. Father Cherrier, T. D. Deegan, (chairman), W. Jordan, (treasurer), and F. W. Russell, (secretary). It is reported that already over fifty applications have been made for the admission of orphan boys to the home and this fact in itself testifies to the necessity of the institution and the need of urgency in getting it into working order.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

In the meantime whilst this strong and influential committee is meeting weekly and perfecting the organization active work is commencing to put

the building into shape and to erect the new presbytery. It has been decided to move the house to another part of the church property facing Carlton street and behind St. Mary's school house on the other side of the block. The new presbytery will be erected on the site of the old. And here it will not be uninteresting to give a brief history of the building which has played a most important part in the Catholic life of the archdiocese and which is soon to enter on an entirely new phase of its existence. It was in 1869—just thirty years ago—that provision was first made by the late Archbishop Tache for church and school facilities for the Catholics on this side of the Red river; and it was in the old cottage at present standing next to St. Mary's academy on Water street that the start was made. Rev. Father McCarthy, O. M. I., who is now one of the priests at St. Mary's, and who had then just been ordained, was placed in charge, and the parish was administered from this centre until 1874 when the present presbytery building was erected on lots purchased from the Hudson's Bay Company. Rev. Father Lacombe, O. M. I., the well known missionary of the Northwest, who had been brought from the Saskatchewan to take charge of the parish, with Rev. Father Baudin, O. M. I., began early that year the construction of the building, which consisted of a chapel upstairs with apartments for the reverend fathers on the ground floor. The contract was given to Messrs. McCaulay & Jarvis, and that they did their work right well is evi-

an orphanage for boys. Given in charity by the missionaries of the far north to the fathers of St. Mary's it is now transmitted by them to their adopted children—the orphan boys of the archdiocese. It is a significant fact that the orphanage is to be placed under the direction of the Sisters of Charity of St. Boniface, the same religious order whose devoted daughters first conferred the boon of Catholic education on the children of this side of the Red river in 1869, and it is a matter of deep satisfaction to the Catholics of Winnipeg to see these good ladies return after twenty-five years to reside amongst them once more.

THE NEW BUILDING.

The plans for the new presbytery, which will be erected on the corner of St. Mary and Carlton streets have been prepared by Mr. S. Hooper, and they show a building well designed and arranged for the ecclesiastical purpose to which it is to be put. It will be one of the most complete buildings erected in the city, as every detail has been thoroughly taken into consideration in planning the structure, and especially the internal arrangements. The basement will have large wash-rooms, store rooms, with furnace and fuel rooms. The front entrance will face the south and will have a commanding appearance. A wide flight of steps will lead up to a broad verandah and the main entrance will be built out with a large balcony over. A conservatory will be located at the south east corner of the verandah. The ground floor will be divided in the middle by a large hall, running east and west, on the south side of which will be the reception hall, parlor, office and private rooms, and on the north large dining hall, with library, divided by folding doors. A porter's room and the main stairway to the other floors are also on the north side, and there will be an entrance from the east to allow of convenient access to the church. The first floor will have four large bed rooms, a double suite of rooms, lavatory, bath room and it is here that the chapel will be located. The second floor will be divided into large recreation room and bed rooms. The building will be heated with hot water. The interior finish will be in oak, and the exterior walls of solid brick and stone. The present bricks will be still used to be connected with the new building by a brick passage. From the brief description it can be seen that the new presbytery will be a most substantial and strong building, a great ornament to the south end of the city, and an enduring improvement to the church property. The accompanying cuts show the old and proposed new presbytery.

MARY'S MONTH.

Why is May called the month of Mary, and especially dedicated to her? Among other reasons there is this, that of the Church's year, the ecclesiastical year, it is at once the most sacred and the most festive and joyous portion. Who would wish February, March or April, to be the month of Mary, considering that it is the time of Lent and penance? Who again would choose December, the Advent season—a time of hope indeed, because Christmas is coming, but a time of fasting too? Christmas itself does not last for a month; and January has indeed the joyful Epiphany, with its Sundays in succession; but these in most years are cut short by the urgent coming of Septuagesima.

May, on the contrary, belongs to the Easter season, which lasts 50 days, and in that season the whole of May commonly falls, and the first half always. The great Feast of the Ascension of our Lord into heaven is always in May, except twice in 40 years. Pentecost, called also Whit-Sunday, the Feast of the Holy Ghost, is commonly in May, and the Feasts of the Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi are in May not unfrequently. May therefore is the time in which there are such frequent Alleluias, because Christ has risen from the grave, Christ has ascended on high, and God the Holy Ghost has come down to take his place.

Here then we have a reason why May is dedicated to Blessed Mary. She is the first of creatures, the most acceptable child of God, the dearest and nearest to Him. It is fitting then that this month should be hers, in which we especially glory and

rejoice in His great Providence to us, in our redemption and sanctification in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

But Mary is not only the acceptable handmaid of the Lord. She is also Mother of His Son, and the Queen of all Saints, and in this month the Church has placed the feasts of some of the greatest of them, as if to bear her company.

It is customary with those who are not Catholics to fancy that the honours we pay to Mary interfere with the supreme worship which we pay to her Divine Son; that in Catholic teaching she eclipses Him. But this is the very reverse of the truth. For if Mary's glory is so very great, how cannot His be greater still who is the Lord and God of Mary? He is infinitely above His Mother; and all that grace which filled her is but the overflowings and superfluities of His incomprehensible Sanctity. And history teaches us the same lesson. Look at the Protestant countries which threw off all devotion to her centuries ago, under the notion that to put her from their thoughts would be exalting the praises of her Son. Has that consequence really followed from their profane conduct towards her? Just the reverse—the countries, Germany, Switzerland, England, which so acted, have in great measure ceased to worship Him, and have given up their belief in His Divinity, while the Catholic Church, wherever she is to be found, adores Christ as true God and true Man, as firmly as ever she did; and strange indeed would it be, if it ever happened otherwise.—Cardinal Newman.

BELLAMY STORER.

THE NEW U. S. MINISTER TO SPAIN IS A CONVERT TO THE FAITH.

Bellamy Storer, the new United States minister to Spain, is 52 years of age, having been born in Cincinnati in 1847. He was graduated from Harvard in 1867 and two years later from the law school of Cincinnati College. He was admitted to the bar in the same year, and until he entered public life as a member of the Fifty-second Congress from the First Ohio District, gave his time to the pursuit of his profession. He was re-elected to the Fifty-third Congress and was a member of the foreign affairs committee. During his service in the House of Representatives he took an active part in the matters pertaining to foreign relations, and was also an ardent supporter of civil service reform.

Mr. Storer is a wealthy man. His wife was a Catholic, and about two years ago he became a convert to the faith. Shortly before his appointment Mrs. Storer offered a beautiful residence in the suburbs of Cincinnati to Archbishop Elder, which the latter on account of its location was compelled to refuse. On Mr. McKinley's election it was announced that Mr. Storer was slated for the first assistant secretary of state, and the A. P. A.'s made a great howl over the matter. Mr. Storer is a close friend of Archbishop Ireland.

It is probable that the Sovereign Pontiff will hold a consistory in a few days, at which about eleven cardinals will be created.