

Northwest Review.

THE ONLY CATHOLIC WEEKLY PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH BETWEEN LONDON (ONTARIO) AND THE PACIFIC COAST

VOL. XXI, No. 26.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1905

\$2.00 per year
\$1.50 if paid in advance
Single Copies 5 cents

CURRENT COMMENT

The April "Messenger" has a special editorial on the promised Catholic Encyclopedia, which throws additional light on its necessity. "Year after year," says our New York contemporary, "some new general encyclopedia appears, and although lately the editors avoid everything offensive or erroneous from our point of view, and add new articles on Catholic subjects, they can never be authoritative, and they must always be hopelessly deficient, giving at most a few hundred titles of the thousands which ought to find place in a Catholic encyclopedia. The Catholic purchaser soon discovers that they were made to catch his subscription and he becomes painfully aware that for one article on Catholic subjects they contain ten which are not to his taste, nor, for that matter, to the taste of any reasonable inquirer, as the writers are incompetent and often unprincipled. The editors take no pains to select topics from any of the numerous departments enumerated in the prospectus of the Catholic Encyclopedia, and they overlook entirely the vast field of biography of prominent Catholics, lay and clerical, as if Catholics had no part in the life and activity of the nation. The fact is that these Encyclopedias are compiled not by the men whose names appear as editors, but by men who hack and hew Encyclopedias already on the market, and by a staff of unknown assistants who do their work more or less conscientiously, like the ordinary newspaper writer, who must fill so many columns daily."

We may add, from our own experience, that this editorial negligence has in the past been observed even in the Catholic editors of such encyclopedias. A few years ago, when a new encyclopedia was offered for subscription, great stress was laid by canvassers on the supervision of all articles by a Catholic scholar of great reputation, who could be trusted to see that nothing offensive to Catholics would appear in that publication. But when the encyclopedia was completed and delivered, Catholic readers discovered that the famous Catholic, who was associate editor, had exercised little or no control over a multitude of anti-Catholic articles in that very collection. The consequence was such a general outcry and such a multitude of protests that the issue of that encyclopedia entailed serious financial loss upon the publishers. One of their chief agents said to us that the negligence of that Catholic editor ruined his company. We may charitably suppose that this Catholic co-editor did not realize the importance and scope of his trust or that he deemed it hopeless to influence the writers of the obnoxious articles. But in either case the sad example of deception practised under the shadow of his name shows how little the presence of one Catholic on a large editorial staff of non-Catholics can be viewed as a guarantee of fair treatment.

This irresponsibility will be carefully avoided in the new Catholic venture. "The editors of the Catholic Encyclopedia have determined to devote themselves unreservedly to the task of selecting, classifying and assigning the various topics, revising the articles contributed, supervising the press work and illustrations; in fact, they are to be personally responsible for all that appears in its pages. This personal attention to the work, together with the determination to have as contributors only the leading authorities on every subject within the scope of this encyclopedia, is the best assurance to all who co-operate with them, that the Encyclopedia will satisfy the needs of Catholics in English-speaking countries and give a new impulse to Catholic zeal."

The Roman correspondent of "The Tablet" writing under date of March 12, reviews the religious statistics of the last Italian census with regard to the Eternal City, and shows that its Catholicity is as flourishing as ever. The total population is 442,783, of whom about one-tenth are foreigners residing

in Rome. The population has doubled in the last thirty years. Catholics number 422,494, or 95.5 per cent. of the whole. "The Jews come next, but 'longo intervallo,' for the number, according to the official returns is only 7,121, or 1.5 per cent.; their own authorities assign to them about one thousand more, and probably with reason, for many Roman Jews are reluctant to admit that they belong to the 'chosen people.'" Their numbers do not seem to have undergone any proportionate increase; on the contrary, in proportion to the entire population, they have decreased: for in 1871 they were about two per cent., in 1862 two and one-fifth per cent., and in 1832 three and one-third per cent. Evidently they thrived more under Papal than under Royal rule.

The next item is so spicy that we must quote it in the correspondent's own words. "The number of Protestants is 5,993 or 1.1 per cent. Thirty years ago, when they began their propaganda in Rome, they numbered about 4,000. They have increased only fifty per cent., while the whole population has increased one hundred per cent. It is quite certain that the great mass of these six thousand Protestants belong to the 45,000 foreigners who happened to be in Rome at the time of the census; a considerable portion of them is furnished by the Waldensian colony in Rome. It is a pity that we have no means of judging of the exact number of 'Roman Protestants' living under the shadow of St. Peter's, or of the number of good English sovereigns and American dollars that have been expended in 'converting'. The 'converts' do probably run some little distance into the hundreds, and each of them is (or should be) worth to the Methodists and Baptists at least £10,000. Radium and 'Roman Protestants' are apparently the most costly things in the world to-day." This is a singularly happy phrase and will bear any amount of pushing along. Nor is it at all fantastical; the comparison is fairly accurate; for radium is worth about \$63,000 an ounce, and each Protestant 'vert' in Rome costs about \$50,000 in buildings such as Crandon Hall which the Methodist Episcopal Bishop John H. Vincent describes in the "Northwestern Christian Advocate," in lectures by highly salaried officials, and in donations to the poor with a view to their perversion.

"There were in Rome at the time of the census," the Tablet Rome correspondent continues, "312 Greek schismatics, all of them foreigners; and there were 38 individuals who belonged to other religions. The number of persons who declared that they belonged to no religion was 2,682 and most of these are affiliated to the socialist and anarchist parties, and to the Freemasons. By the way, it is worth noting that in Rome, socialism professes to be as much opposed to Freemasonry as it is to 'Clericalism.' There were 5,231 persons who refused to make any declaration as to their religious beliefs—among them, very probably, being the thousand Jews above mentioned."

In an article that shows considerable research the "Ave Maria" of March 25, traces Macaulay's famous phrase about the "traveller from New Zealand" taking "his stand on a broken arch of London Bridge to sketch the ruins of St. Paul," back to Horace Walpole, 76 years before Macaulay published the essay on Ranke's History of the Popes in which occurs that oft-quoted tribute to the indestructibility of the Church. Walpole, in his letter to Mason, writes (26 years before Macaulay's birth): "At last some curious traveller from Lima will visit England, and give a description of the ruins of St. Paul's, like the editions of Baalbec and Palmyra." The choice of Lima by so worldly-wise a man as Walpole shows how, even as late as the end of the third quarter of the eighteenth century stability was so salient a character of Spanish rule that a great city in Spanish-America appeared more likely to endure than the metropolis of the British Empire. How things have changed since then! With independence the glory of Lima has de-

parted. Not to mention Rio de Janeiro, which, though Portuguese in language, is the largest city in South America, Buenos Ayres and Santiago de Chile present far more elements of stability than Lima does now. But when Walpole wrote New York was nothing in comparison with Lima. The only cities in the western Hemisphere that were in the same class as the capital of Peru were Mexico and Havana.

The Morning Telegram, of the 4th inst., published a special despatch from Toronto, stating that "when the delegates from Manitoba came to Ottawa they were sent for by the papal delegate and told that if the Hon. R. P. Roblin would change the school system or practice in the province, Manitoba's boundaries would be enlarged." In the course of comments on this announcement the despatch goes on to observe: "It is also said that a few days later, when Archbishop Langevin was told what had taken place, His Grace of St. Boniface realised at once what a faux pas the Italian diplomat had made." At first reading this last sentence seemed to imply that Mgr. Langevin said something to that effect, and accordingly a prominent priest of the Archbishop's household urged him to deny it promptly. But, on re-reading the passage, His Grace, with his unerring acumen, noticed the skilful wording of the phrase, which deftly avoided any assertion as to his having said or signified in any way his supposed disapproval. He is merely said to have "realised at once" the alleged faux pas. How can any one know what he realised in his inmost soul? The charge is too intangible to deserve the effort of a denial. His Grace is not Quixotic enough to run full tilt against a windmill, especially when the faintest prospect of any alleviation of the intolerable burden imposed on Winnipeg and Brandon Catholics by double school taxes would fill him with unspeakable joy.

In the March "Review of Reviews"—which, by the way, is unconscionably late—Mr. W. T. Stead has a masterly character sketch entitled "Satan in Erin," Satan being the personification of the Orange Ascendancy which spoils and ruins every effort made by honest Englishmen for the betterment of Ireland. Graphically does he tell the story of past and present interference by "Diabolos, the Accuser, Apollyon, the Destroyer, the Old Serpent, the Tempter, the Principle of Evil, which in Ireland has yet another alias. It is there known as Ascendancy and it masquerades as Loyalty; but in reality, as the whole course of history shows, it is in very truth a thing of the Devil, if indeed it is not the Devil himself—a conclusion which seems naturally to follow from the saying that a tree is known by its fruits. He quotes from Goldwin Smith and the Encyclopaedia Britannica to show how Fitzwilliam, whose advent as viceroy in 1795 was hailed with great hopes founded on his fearless fairness, was driven out by the friends of ascendancy and Castle Rule, how after his departure amid public mourning "there ensued a scene which has no parallel even in the organized massacres of the French Republic. Deeds of violence precluded any actual attempt at insurrection. The Protestants under the name of Orangemen gathered to the support of the government as yeomanry or militiamen. Before long these guardians of the peace had spread terror over all Catholic Ireland. By the lash, by tortures, by the defilement of chaste and innocent women, they made their predominance felt." (Enc. Brit.)

Mr. Stead then relates how the lessons of experience have convinced one English administrator after another who has gone to Dublin Castle that the present system is utterly indefensible. "It is not only Chief Secretaries and Under-Secretaries who are converted. Lord Spencer governed Ireland for years under coercion, and was slowly but definitely converted to the belief that Home Rule must come. Lord Carnarvon threw the weight of a Conservative Viceroy into the Home Rule scale. But Viceroy or Under-Secretary,

it is all one to the partisan of Ascendancy. At any cost, without counting the cost, the existing system must be upheld. Ireland suffers from it. England suffers from it. The whole British Empire suffers from it. But perish Ireland and perish England, perish the Empire, rather than impair the baleful domination of Ascendancy in Ireland." What a true picture of the spirit of Orangeism everywhere, Canada not excepted.

Mr. Stead next addresses himself to the hero of his character sketch, Sir Antony MacDonnell, whose massive head, straight brows, square jaw and bright Irish eyes, portrayed on page 260, fully realize one's expectations of what a man of his ability and vigor should look like. His career of nearly forty years of successful rule in India is rapidly but forcefully sketched, the praise of him by the Marquis de Lansdowne in the House of Lords being quoted in full. Then what he has accomplished in Ireland is tersely told. "Ireland is almost crimeless. Never has there been so little agrarian crime as there is to-day. Sir Antony's appointment had been justified by its results." As soon, however, as he matured a plan for Catholic University education, the mischief makers flew at him. "The chief difficulty with the Roman Catholic hierarchy was overcome, the Presbyterians and Irish Anglicans were also favorably disposed. But Satan in Erin was irreconcilable. The Orange Devil ramped and raged and swore, and his partisans in the Cabinet wrecked the scheme." As Sir Antony is known to be an Irish Catholic Home Ruler, "the Ascendancy Devil marked him down for destruction. He was the advocate of extending university education to Catholics. He was, worst of all, the champion of what the Orangemen describe as 'rotten conciliation.' Therefore they opened a campaign against him. The role of an accuser of the brethren came easily to the Diabolos of Ireland. A series of false charges of religious bigotry and unfairness was brought against him, all of them bearing the unmistakable features of their father the Devil." His enemies want to provoke his resignation by a censure which ignores the express terms of his contract giving him more freedom and power than any other Under-Secretary ever had, and which has been practically annulled by the general consensus of parliamentary opinion. But "secure in the approval of the King, the King's Governor General, and of Lord Lansdowne, with the unanimous opinion of Parliament that he was justified in what ever he has done by the express terms of his contract, Sir Antony MacDonnell will sit tight and bid the foul fiend defiance. And who is there outside the narrow limits of the Ascendancy clique but must wish him God-speed in the fight?"

Lord Dudley, the present Viceroy, comes in for a large share of praise. "His speeches and his actions have, from the first moment he stepped on Irish shores, shown him to be a foe to the death to the Diabolical Element in Ireland which regards Conciliation as a dangerous thing. When he landed in Ireland in September, 1902, Lord Dudley announced 'this country will be my home' as long as he is Viceroy. He has been as good as his word. He has lived there ever since, and, what is more, he has visited every nook and corner of the Green Isle in his motor-car. He has been honored from the first with the suspicious hostility of the "Times." It is difficult to suggest any positive standard of infallibility, but as a negative standard few are more trustworthy than the converse of whatever the "Times" says about Ireland."

The Tribune's English is sometimes unintelligible. Last Tuesday in the middle of a sensational scarehead filling half its first page there appeared in huge letters this gem, "Pope's Representative demands Separate Schools in Manitoba 'in lieu' of extension of the boundaries." What the headless heading man meant was "in return for" or "in exchange for." But why didn't he say so?

Persons and Facts

Mr. William Seton, LL.D., who died on the 15th of March in St. Vincent's hospital, New York, was a grand nephew of the saintly Mother Seton, foundress of the Sisters of Charity in the United States. During his illness he was attended by the Rev. Father White, S.J., of St. Francis Xavier's church. He is survived by his two brothers, the Most Rev. Robert Seton, titular Archbishop of Heliopolis, who resides in Rome, and Major Henry Seton of the U.S. army. Dr. William Seton was an alumnus of Fordham College and Mount St. Mary's, Emmetsburg. He was a frequent contributor of scientific and philosophic articles to the Catholic World Magazine. His best known books in a lighter vein are "The Romance of the Charter Oak" and "The Pride of Lexington." Just before his death he was reading the proofs of his last story, "The Building of the Mountain." He was sixty-nine years of age.

One day last week, by actual count, the St. Boniface car, which seats only 21 persons, contained 54, most of them, of course, hanging on to straps. Sometimes there are more, as when the steps are occupied by several men hanging to the outside handles.

Mr. John Redmond on St. Patrick's day received a telegram from Sidney saying: "Cardinal Moran sends the greetings of Irish-Australia, and proposes the establishment of a Home Rule Tribute in aid of the Irish Party of £20,000 a year, to be subscribed by the sea-divided Gael, and guarantee's Australia's share."

In the "Memorials of Edward Burne-Jones," just published, the great Pre-Raphaelite's veneration for Newman, which he entertained till his dying day, is evident. Newman taught him "to venture all on the Unseen," and if he took the teaching to heart, it was because Newman imparted it in a way that touched him—not scolding or forbidding, nor much leading—walking with him a step in front.

It is stated that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Premier of Canada, is within the next two months to be the guest of a North of England Peer, and it is added that, while in this country, he may be expected to attend a meeting of the Irish Parliamentary Party, at the special invitation of Mr. Edward Blake, M.P.—Liverpool Catholic Times, March 24.

Mr. Clancy, and after him Mr. John Redmond asked in the House of Commons on March 20, whether it was true that the provision on the estimates for higher education in England was to be raised from £54,000 to £100,000 this year, but that no additional provision was to be made for Ireland. Mr. Balfour replied that it was so.

Mr. W. H. Grattan Flood has received intimation from his Eminence Cardinal Merry del Val, Pontifical Secretary of State, that His Holiness Pope Pius X has graciously accepted a copy of the "History of Irish Music," and was much interested in it. The presentation was made by Cardinal Merry del Val.

The Women's Hospital Aid of Regina are going to have full control of a special edition of "The Leader" to appear Friday, May 12th. We are very glad to see that Mrs. Thos. Bennett, our gifted Regina correspondent, known to our readers as "Gena MacFarlane," is to be the Editor in chief of this interesting venture. The advertising managers are Mrs. C. F. McCusker, Mrs. Acaster, Mrs. Bole and Mrs. Gee, the two first named being also Catholics. The reporters are Mesdames Reynolds, McLaughlin, Mesome, Ross, Young, Harwood, Ekins, King, McIlree, Mollard, and Smith. The business manager is Mrs. Peverett. Mrs. Rimmer, another Catholic, is City Editor. We look forward with great anticipations to this "Women's Edition" of the Regina Leader.