



SPARKS FROM THE WESTERN WATCHMAN.

Not a word about Dreyfus in our papers for a week! What has appeared has been often unfavorable to the condemned. Has the subsidy been exhausted? The great dailies of America which for four months have been belching out fire and smoke are now silent and still, like extinct volcanoes. They were not active for their health.

"Pardoned in principle" is a phrase of the newspapers, intended to conceal rather than express the truth. The French government has decided that the five years spent on Devil's Island shall be considered a full satisfaction for the ten years of detention decreed at Rennes. We think this position is correct and the prisoner entitled to his freedom. The sentence of the Rennes court-martial stands.

That letter of Leo on Dreyfus has appeared, but "Hamlet is left out." Instead, the Holy Father deplors the political disturbances of the country and counsels peace and loyal adhesion to the Republic. Some one who has freely translated the document makes the Pope say that the Catholics of France should not heed surpliced politicians. The Pope used no such language as that.

The Methodists have memorialized the President again to use his good offices with the South American republics to have the laws of the latter so amended as to permit missionaries there to wed without being forced to come back to this country to have the ceremony performed. These missionaries are a very impatient set, and when they want to marry they want it very badly and "powerful sudden."

The Republican party will go down in inglorious defeat in 1900, not because the people are opposed to trusts, imperialism or free silver, but because we can't lick the Philippines; and in our rage will hunt up somebody we can lick. The Republican party will be the nearest to hand, and we shall smash it.

Cardinal Vaughan is beginning to tell the English people some very unpalatable truths. His late address before the Catholic Truth Society of Great Britain has stirred up a hornet's nest. The plunder of the monasteries is a sore subject to touch, and he made some of the scions of noble houses howl with rage.

The crusade now being waged against the wine rooms deserves, as it has received, the encouragement and hearty support of every man, woman and child in the community. Lewdness is a most un-Irish and un-Catholic vice, and those Irish Catholics who keep wine rooms should have no mercy shown them.

Major General Thomas M. Anderson, commander of the department of the lakes, speaking of the Rennes verdict, says: "I do not think Capt. Dreyfus has been fairly dealt with at either court-martial; but I believe he is guilty." We spoke last week of the incident of Dreyfus' visit to Muhlhausen. Mr. G. W. Steevens, the correspondent of the Daily Mail, of London, says of the little captain's testimony in that connection: "If he is lost, with him it will be the fault of his own lying. There is no getting over it; Dreyfus does not

give the effect of a straight man. For yesterday he made a vile impression. The charge against him—do not laugh; it is very serious for him—was one of M. Quesnay de Beurepaire's, that he had followed German manoeuvres about Muhlhausen. He had subsequently made this a subject for swagger after his wont, to one of his comrades. If he had said: "Yes, I was riding out near Muhlhausen and saw German regiments field-firing. I stopped to look at them. What French officer would not have done the same?" it would have been nothing at all. Instead of that, he paused, hesitated, stammered, asked to have questions repeated that were audible all down the hall. First he denied; then he qualified. Finally he said he may possibly have seen German regiments manoeuvring. He was—as he has been before—afraid to tell the truth. And it is quite possible in these two minutes yesterday he lied himself back to the Devil's Island."

MR. DIXON'S DEPARTURE.

Under the above heading the Free Press of last Friday published the following paragraph:

There is considerable mystery attached to the departure of Mr. Rowland Dixon, the well known druggist of Main street. It is stated by several of his friends that Mr. Dixon has gone to Madrid in answer to certain communications received from there, but what his mission is his friends positively refuse to divulge, though they state that they did everything in their power to prevent his departure. He left last night for New York from whence it is thought he intends to sail for Spain. "He ought to be stopped," said one who knew on what errand Mr. Dixon was bound, "for if he does not return it will not surprise those who were taken into his confidence." It is thought that the young gentleman has been victimized by one of those sharpers who claim to be able to place their intended victim in possession of a large fortune left by a deceased relative who died in Spain. It is an old, old story, and a few months ago a prominent Brandon man was almost caught, but was fortunately stopped by friends at Ottawa when he was en route to Madrid.

That same evening in the same paper appeared this categorical contradiction by one who knows:

To the Editor of the Free Press. Sir—The paragraph which appeared on the fifth page of your paper this morning about Mr. Rowland Dixon's departure is, allow me to say, altogether misleading. He left not last night, but the night before last, purely on a matter of business connected with the Sunlight Gas company. Those who know Mr. Dixon's shrewdness and business insight, cannot but smile at the ridiculous fears entertained by people who ought to mind their own business. I must add that Mr. Dixon will be back shortly.

L. DE GALEMBERT,
Agent for Sunlight Gas Co.
Winnipeg, Sept. 29.

Mr. Joseph Piché, the newly appointed organist of St. Mary's Church, Winnipeg, presided at the organ for the first time at Vespers last Sunday evening.

TO BECOME A NUN.

HAWTHORNE'S DAUGHTER ENTERS THE DOMINICAN NOVITIATE.

Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, only daughter of the late Nathaniel Hawthorne, and widow of the distinguished author, George Parsons Lathrop, has entered the novitiate of the Third Order of St. Dominic. Mrs. Lathrop is the founder of a hospital for incurable cancer sufferers, having for the past three years, devoted all her time, as well as all her own resources to the great charity which she has adopted.

With Mrs. Lathrop the work is purely a labor of love. Pity for the hopeless wretchedness of cancer sufferers first induced her to take up the work, for which she fitted herself by a course of study in cancer nursing at the New York Hospital, shortly after opening the home, which originally consisted of three small rooms in a tenement house.

That the charity has widened in its scope was no doubt due in a paramount degree to Mrs. Lathrop's deep interest in, and thorough devotion to it. Her own resources were long ago exhausted. But she succeeded in interesting many of the charitably inclined in her enterprise, until the work outgrew its first modest home.

Mrs. Lathrop is described as a woman of much personal magnetism, with brilliant blue eyes and a wonderful smile. By her latest act, this gifted woman has detached herself still further from the world, and in the future will be seen devoting herself as closely as ever to her great work in the simple garb of a member of the Third Order of St. Dominic.—Cath. Columbian.

MAJOR DOWLING'S FUNERAL.

Macleod Gazette, S-pt. 22.

The funeral of the late Major Dowling, which took place from St. Mary's Church, Calgary, on Tuesday morning, Sept. 14, was attended by many prominent citizens of Calgary, old friends of the deceased. The officers and men of C division, N. W. M. Police, attended in a body to pay a last token of respect to the departed.

A solemn High Mass of Requiem was sung by Rev. Father Lacombe, who had returned the night before from his northern trip.

At the close of the service, Father Lacombe addressed the congregation, taking as his text the words, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." In the course of his address he spoke of his long acquaintance with the deceased, extending over many years, of his long illness borne with patience and resignation to the Divine Will. He took occasion to pay a high tribute of respect to the Mounted Police, "that noble body of men who have done so much for this western country" and of which his deceased friend was at one time a prominent member. He closed an impressive address with a touching farewell. "Farewell, my old friend. I am an old man. We will soon meet.

Farewell!" The congregation were visibly affected.

The casket enclosing the remains, and covered with the Union Jack, was then carried from the church by the six pall bearers: Supt. Sanders, N.W.M. P., R. Riddle, V. S., G. C. King, ex-policeman; J. G. Vanwart, G. Linton and Dr. Holbrook, and was placed in a carriage provided by the N. W. M. P. The procession then proceeded to the Roman Catholic cemetery where the burial service was read by Rev. Father LeMarchand, parish priest.

J. Frank Costigan, of Macleod, grandson of the deceased, was the chief mourner. Mr. Costigan, of Cranbrook, B.C., was unable to reach Calgary in time for the funeral.

NEW CONVENT AT QU'APPELLE.

We are glad to announce that St. Gabriel's convent, Qu'Appelle, Assa., has opened school. This institution is under the direction of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. Our western readers scattered in the prairies, living far from their churches, will have a fine opportunity of giving a sound Catholic education to their children and of having them—boys and girls—prepared for their first communion. Their terms are extremely low. Boarding, tuition, bed and bedding, all for \$6.25 per month. Drawing, painting, music, etc., are taught to those who are willing to pay for these extras. Among the four sisters, two are Irish.

LETTER FROM A CONVERT.

I, Wm. Ellard Fraser, of Fort Brook, Pictou county, N. S., was received into the Catholic Church at New Glasgow, May 30, 1898, by the Rev. Ronald McDonald, P. P.

The first thing that shook my faith in Protestantism was the reading of a book entitled "Why Priests Should Wed," written by Justin D. Fulton. Its perusal thoroughly disgusted me.

I was a member of Wallace Royal Orange Lodge at McAdam's Junction in 1895. I was at that time in great distress of mind because I felt that as a Protestant I was in error. A reading of the second volume of Bishop Hay's "Sincere Christian" convinced me of the fact. For some time I was held back by an uncertainty as to whether the pre-eminence given to Peter was transmitted at his death to his successors. However, I finally arrived at the conclusion that the Roman Catholic Church was the one true Church, and that if I died outside of it I should be lost. My one prayer now is that my sisters and brothers may also become members of the One True Fold.—Exchange.

HIS MESSAGE.

Excitement is often the cause of strange telegrams, as well as of other strange manifestations. A man who had been one of the passengers on a shipwrecked vessel was rescued almost by a miracle. On arriving at a place from which he could send a telegraphic message, he forwarded the following dispatch to his brother: "I am saved! Try to break it to my wife."

ANOTHER WIN FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

Catholic education has again scored a magnificent success in Ireland under the intermediate examinations. Schools and colleges presided over by eminent Catholic staffs have, in that great intellectual tourney, carried off the highest honors. They were pitted against institutions which for many decades have enjoyed all the advantages of State patronage and all that wealth could offer in the way of inducement to the highest intellect and experience in the training of youth, while the Catholic system was discouraged, unfavored, handicapped in every possible way. But mark the outcome of the contest between two systems thus unequally matched. There were 24 "exhibitions" open for competition in the highest intermediate grade, and out of the 24 the Catholic schools carried off 14; while in the middle grade they were still more successful, carrying off no fewer than 38 out of 49. They secured, moreover, first place in each grade. Rockwell College took the palm in the senior grade and St. Coleman's, Fermoy, the same prize in the middle one. Blackrock, now famous for its many successes, led all others in the number of prizes won by its pupils. Clongowes Wood College (S. J.) won four out of the five gold medals awarded in the junior grade. Three of them are won by T. Quinlan, who stands first in the grade with a net total which is a record under the present system, and wins besides the mathematical gold medal, scoring the maximum in all sections, and the classical gold medal, with the net total of 2,080 out of 2,400. In the preparatory grade Clongowes has four exhibitions, in the junior nine, and in the middle grade three. In the senior grade one of the two Clongowes' exhibitioners who was fourth on the total obtained higher marks in Greek than were ever obtained before. St. Mary's, Rathmines, was also eminently successful. Three of these colleges are under the management of the Fathers of the Holy Ghost, who are so well known in our own midst by St. Joseph's Home, St. Peter Claver's mission and by the splendid institution in the western part of this State, popularly called Pittsburg College. The Christian Brothers' schools held their usual high place in the race for the golden apples. Only a few of the convent schools entered for competition, but those who did so scored well. The thing to be remarked about these competitions is the fact that none of the competing Catholic institutions receives a cent of State aid, whilst they are pitted against places that receive not merely emoluments from the State, but are in many cases richly endowed from private sources. It is considered a great honor not only for the student himself, but also for the institution to which he belongs, to secure the much coveted "exhibition" or first class prize, amounting in the senior grade to the sum of \$250—more especially if this is accompanied by a gold medal for particular excellence in the subject or in the grade.—Catholic Standard and Times.