

# Northwest Review

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

VOL. XXII, No. 22

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1906

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

## Current Comment

One of our best informed Catholic exchanges says:

The parish priests who are taking up the census of the Catholics in the Cincinnati parishes, are surprised at the results. They are discovering quite a number of families who had drifted so long away from the Catholic religion that they were not even known as nominal Catholics. In every American city there is an undiscovered element that ought to be Catholic, but that must be gone after to be retained. It numbers from five to ten per cent. of the total Catholic population.

Similar discoveries are made whenever and wherever the pastors or their assistant priests institute a regular house to house visitation. In England it is a common practice for missionaries a few days before they begin preaching a mission, to make, with the resident clergy, a thorough visitation of the whole parish, inquiring at every house if there are any Catholics there, and inviting the Catholics to the Mission. In this way they invariably discover a large number of negligent Catholics, many of whom are brought to realize their obligations and to fulfil them in future.

The recent general election has resulted in the return of seven Catholic members of Parliament for England, the largest number since the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829. The following figures for English constituencies alone, excluding the large Catholic representation from Ireland, show that there has been no continuous increase, the total of six having been reached at two periods which were 51 years apart, 1841 and 1892:

1835, 2; 1837, 2; 1841, 6; 1847, 5; 1852, 3; 1857, 1; 1859, 1; 1865, 1; 1868, 1; 1874, 0; 1880, 1; 1885, 3; 1886, 5; 1892, 6; 1895, 3; 1900, 5.

There were really two general elections, those of 1874 and 1880, the former a Conservative and the latter a Liberal victory, in which not a single Catholic was elected for Great Britain; but Sir Hubert Jerningham was elected for Berwick-on-Tweed at a bye-election in 1881 and sat in the Parliament of 1880 till its dissolution in 1885, and so he is counted as belonging to that Parliament. The unprecedented total of seven Catholics members in the present Parliament is still very small as compared with the numerical proportion of Catholics in Great Britain and especially with their social and literary influence; but in view of the anti-Catholic prejudices still rampant among the Evangelical Protestants of Great Britain, any increase in Catholic representation is a hopeful sign. Protestant electors in England do not care much about the special kind of Protestantism a candidate professes, unless he be a zealous Anglican, and then the dissenters may object to him; they have repeatedly elected from the Unitarian body a number of members far in excess of the Unitarian population; but as soon as a Catholic solicits their votes, their first impulse is to reject him, and if they do ultimately elect him they do so in spite of his religion.

The "Tribune's" article on "Compulsory Education" in its issue of Feb. 28 appeared too late to receive the notice it deserves in our own issue of last week. On the whole the tone of that article is conciliatory and reasonable. But our McDermot and venue contemporary is mistaken when it says that we attacked the principle of compulsory education. What we said was that "we have no great faith in the much lauded benefits of compulsory education," and that this bill, when draughted "in a Protestant province, suggested and inspired by the Masonic and Orange lodges, would be a direct menace" to Catholic schools." Mr. A. Ross, explicitly denies that the proposed bill is inspired by the Masonic and

Orange lodges; the "Tribune" is evidently anxious to make the bill acceptable to Catholics; and they are both "honorable men, so are they all, all honorable men." The "Tribune" in particular is very explicit: "Parents will not be obliged to send their children to public schools. Indeed they will not be compelled to send them to any school. They will merely be obliged to convince the government official that their children are being educated." And again: "If the authorities of the Roman Catholic Church see in any clause of the bill—or in the omission of any clause—a menace to Roman Catholic children there can be no objection to amending the measure in such detail as will remove that menace." If these assurances be carried out now and never falsified in the future, our fears of a menace will be dispelled; for, we beg the "Tribune" to remember, we never attacked the principle.

On the contrary, in our issue of December 2 last, we wrote a leading article approving a certain kind of "Compulsory Education"—we hold an extra copy of that issue at the "Tribune's" service if it wish to verify our quotations—in which we blamed the "Brandon Times" for saying that the proposed law, then taking shape in a vague way, should "not be so framed as to permit children to attend private or separate schools." After quoting the "Brandon Times" article entire—a practice which we commend to the "Tribune" and which it would be only honest to imitate in the case of our present remarks—we wrote as follows:

We are pleased to see that the "Brandon Times" draws a sufficiently clear distinction between the general principle of compulsory education for all children under fourteen years of age, which is the only aspect of the proposed measure mentioned, so far, as being strongly favored by "the attorney general and the premier"—and the editor's personal opinions as to the applications of that general principle. What the "Times" thinks of the bearing of that measure on private and separate schools, and what the provincial government intend to do are clearly differentiated in our contemporary's article and may be two very different things. We shall, therefore, begin by considering the general principle before approaching the more or less gratuitous and irresponsible applications thereof.

Compulsory education is neither the panacea for all human ills, which many shortsighted politicians would fain make it out to be, nor the terrible bug-bear which some ultra-conservative people think it is. The principle of obliging all parents to see that their children are sufficiently educated for the exigencies of the age is not a bad one. The Catholic Church, in particular, jealous as she is of the sacred rights of the family, has never condemned that principle. But the application of the general principle is an extremely difficult and delicate matter. To enact that all children shall have some schooling is one thing, and to enact that all children shall attend one kind of school is quite another. The former is merely an insistence by the State on the parent's duty of educating their children; the latter would be an invasion of the liberties of the home. The state may have a perfect right to say to parents: You must educate your child; but it has no right to say: You must send your child to my school. The absurdity of this latter pretension is startlingly evident in the case of wealthy parents who prefer to teach their children themselves or to confide them to governesses and private tutors at home. Though this case is not a common one in this country, yet it does occur especially when children are too sickly to attend school at any distance from home. What is the State going to do about them? Clearly its interference in

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## THE LATE DONAT MANSEAU

Gloom fell upon the Faculty and Students of St. Boniface College when in the early morning it was announced that Donat Manseau, who had been bravely struggling against death for several days, had died during the night in St. Boniface Hospital. He was born Dec. 12, 1887, in the province of Quebec, whence his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Evariste Manseau, came some years ago to settle in Letellier, where Mr. Manseau is a prosperous farmer. Donat entered St. Boniface College in the autumn of 1904 and was a good student, meeting with average success in the second commercial class under Brother Kennedy. He was taken ill with typhoid fever about four weeks ago and this developed into pneumonia. The young man fully realized his condition and received Holy Viaticum from Father Messier, the chaplain of the hospital, in the morning of Wednesday the 28th ult. The disease becoming more dangerous the next day; Father Messier gave him Extreme Unction in the evening of Thursday, March 1st. That night the Rector of the college, Rev. J. Dugas, S.J., watched by the bedside of his sick charge, and also spent a part of Friday with him. Meanwhile Donat's parents had come up from Letellier to be with their dear son in his last moments, and it will ever be a source of hope and comfort to them that he was so well prepared for death and so resigned to God's will. On Friday he rallied somewhat and there was just a faint chance of recovery but the disease had taken a fatal hold and the end came peacefully about two o'clock on Saturday morning, March 3. Shortly after noon all the students of the college went to pray around the coffin, which was arranged in thoroughly Catholic fashion at Coutu's undertaking rooms; they then accompanied the remains to the C.N.R. station.

The funeral took place at 9.30 on Monday morning in the parish church of Letellier. Rev. Father Dugas, S.J., who had taken the southbound train the previous evening, sang the solemn Requiem Mass with Rev. Father Filion, pastor of St. Jean Baptiste, as deacon, and Rev. Father Juras, pastor of Letellier, as subdeacon. The church was crowded, and, small though the parish is, one hundred and thirty persons received Holy Communion for the dear departed one, many of the communicants being young men who had been schoolfellows of the deceased.

R. I. P.

## CATHOLIC CLUB NEWS

The Executive met in regular weekly meeting on Tuesday evening, March 6th, and completed all arrangements for the St. Patrick's concert on the 17th inst.

The concert will be held as usual in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, and will commence promptly at eight thirty o'clock and the programme is of considerable length. Tickets will be on sale at Mr. T. D. Deegan's store on Main Street North, the Singer Machine Company's store on Main Street South, and at Mr. C. H. Forrester's Music Store, Co-operative Block, Portage Avenue, or may be had at St. Mary's Presbytery or from any member of the Executive on and after Monday, March 12th.

The final game of pedro will be played with the Young Conservative Club at their Club Rooms on Friday evening, March 9th, at eight thirty o'clock.

The Young Men's Liberal Club wrote suggesting that a series of games of pedro be played between the Catholic Club and their Club, and the Secretary of the Catholic Club has been requested by the Executive to arrange with the captain of the Liberal team for a series of games as suggested. The dates of these games will be announced later as arranged.

It is never too soon, nor ever too late to press home on ourselves questions like the following: What spirit dwells in my heart? What good have I been doing? What works of love have I done. What deeds of charity have I performed; what fruits of the spirit, what evidence of love have I to show? We must answer these questions some day. Why not press them now on our heart and reflect upon them?

## Persons and Facts

Nurse Brennan, a graduate of St. Boniface Hospital, left last Sunday for Fort William to attend Mrs. James Murphy, who is suffering from typhoid fever.

News of a terrible cyclone which devastated the Society and Tuamotu Islands in the South Pacific Ocean reached here on Monday last. Tahiti and adjacent islands were the heaviest losers. Ten thousand persons are said to have perished and the material losses mount up to several million dollars. The wind, which is estimated to have attained a velocity of 130 miles an hour, lifted the waves to a height of 65 feet, and in one instance at least a sea 30 feet deep swept over an island. People were fortunate when they could cling to the tops of cocoanut trees. At Fuharan in the Tuamotu Islands all the government buildings, all the dwelling houses and the Catholic church were swept away. The Society and Tuamotu groups belong to France. Most of the natives are Christians, chiefly Catholics. In Marshall's "Christian Missions" the chapter on the Society Islands affords very instructive quotations from Protestant authors who bear witness to the greater success of the Catholic missionaries.

Sir Francis Cruise, who studied at the Jesuit College of Clongowes Wood, and is the author of a fine "Life of Thomas a Kempis," is Physician-in-Ordinary to the King in Ireland. No case, says the "Evening News," is considered hopeless in Dublin so long as there still remains Sir Francis to consult. He is musical, and in spite of his two-and-seventy years, carries himself bravely among the best of shooting men. The literature of his profession has been enriched by notable contributions from his pen.

According to a report circulated in well-informed quarters the success of Lord Aberdeen's first Levee in mustering representatives of the Ascendancy Party, who boycotted him when he was last in the Viceregal Lodge, is very simple. The King caused it to be known in circles where the information would be likely to reach the ears of the Orange leaders in Ireland that those of them who did not think it good enough to attend the Court of his representative in Ireland would also be dispensed from attendance at his own Court in London.

A romantic wedding took place on the 7th inst. at the Catholic Church of Our Lady, Grove-road, St. John's Wood, when Sir James Langrishe, Bart., of Knock-topper Abbey, Co. Kilkenny, and Lucan Lodge, Co. Dublin, led to the altar Miss Alghita Maud Gooch, only daughter of the late Sir Daniel Gooch, Bart. The bridegroom is in his 83rd year, and the bride is 48 years his junior. Despite his great age the bridegroom bore himself with an almost juvenile air. He was attended by Sir James Power as best man, and the bride was given away by her uncle, Mr. George Gooch. Only a few relations and friends were present at the ceremony.—Catholic Times (Liverpool). Feb. 16.

Surgeon-Major Devine succeeded Dr. Codd as Principal Medical Officer in this part of Canada on the first of this month.

At a meeting of the Irish Parliamentary Party held in the City Hall, Dublin, on Feb. 9, Mr. John Redmond was re-elected chairman, and Sir Thomas Esmonde, Captain Donelan, Mr. Patrick O'Brien and Mr. J. P. Boland were re-elected whips.

Of the American secular system of education, Abbot Gasquet in a letter to the London "Times" says: "When in America a year and a half ago I met many people of all religious denominations, who deeply deplored the results

of this experiment in Godless education on a large scale, which were becoming more and more apparent year by year."

In a letter to the same influential journal Father Bernard Vaughan, S.J., writes: "Before Princess Ena can be received into the Church it will be the sacred duty of the authorities of that Church to have her solemn assurance that her present conscientious convictions oblige her to take the step. The Bishop of London need have no fear that 'conversion by order' can be effected from the Catholic side. Is it not too much to express a hope that the English public will leave unquestioned the inward motives which are beyond their discovery and no affair of theirs."

Replying to Dr. Clifford, the notorious Nonconformist agitator, Father Sydney Smith, S.J., writes to the London "Times": "Dr. Clifford's ideal of undenominational schools enforced on all alike means that the State is impartially to destroy all our faiths and do its level best to transform our children into religious indifferentists. Our ideal is that of a State impartially preserving all."

Lord Aberdeen's prompt withdrawal of the coercion act proclamation in Ireland, which he found in force, may be taken as an indication of the definite abandonment by the Liberal government of the hateful and oppressive policy which the act sanctioned. It affords welcome proof of the conciliatory attitude of the new administration toward the Irish people. But far more effective assistance would be given by the repeal of the act itself. In the last Parliament the Liberal opposition repeatedly voted for its repeal. When the new Parliament settles down to business the Liberal majority will be in position to give effect to that vote and concede to Ireland the right to equal laws.

The following resolution passed at the recent annual meeting of the Veterans of 1886 Association deserves to be carefully pondered and acted upon.

"The flag of our country, being the emblem of Britain's might and glory, it ought, whenever and wherever displayed, to evoke feelings of patriotic pride in every British subject, but this Association views with regret the prevalent and increasing custom of making it the medium of calling attention to auction sales and otherwise using it for advertising purposes, demeaning the flag and taking from it the respect with which it ought to be viewed. Resolved, therefore, that the President appoint a committee to act with kindred Associations or otherwise in endeavoring to secure a discontinuance of the practice of using the British or Canadian flags for such purposes.

The magnificent Catholic cathedral the most handsome edifice of its kind in the entire south, erected in Richmond, Va., at a cost of \$500,000, by Mrs. Thomas F. Ryan of New York, has been finally completed and will be formally dedicated at Eastertide in the presence of many noted Catholic functionaries.

The building is artistic in every particular. Inside and outside precedence has been given everywhere to the beautiful. Under the chancel there has been erected a mausoleum in which the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Ryan and the bishops of the Richmond diocese will repose after death. The dedication of the church will be an event marking an epoch in the history of Southern Catholicism.

Considering the teaching of the kindest of Catholic moralists—that a wealthy man ought to give for purposes of charity at least one-fiftieth of his superfluous wealth, i.e., of what remains over and above the expenses suitable for his position in society, the generosity

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