

**NORTHWEST REVIEW**

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**Northwest Review.**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 1899

**CURRENT COMMENT**

The Garment Workers' strike in Winnipeg seems to be altogether justifiable, and we are glad to learn that the difficulty bids fair to be amicably settled.

Catholics will note the fact that, while the Free Press gave, yesterday morning, a very good report of Rev. Father Faillon's two sermons, the Morning Telegram ignored them completely and gave abundant space to the platitudes of a third-rate local preacher.

The Hotel Manitoba fire once more drives home to thinking citizens the immense advantage of putting telegraph, electric light and telephone wires underground. Some people have been cut off during twelve days by that fire, and how much time was lost during the fire itself by having to cut down 144 wires in front of the hotel!

It is a scholarly comfort to see in the Holy Cross Purple for February that the "Alumni Vigorniensis" (Worcester students) still keep up that well nigh lost art of Latin lapidary inscriptions. We remember how we once puzzled a Latin tutor in Oxford itself by submitting to him a long lapidary inscription by an Italian priest. He knew all about Latin verses but this aspect of Latinity was almost a sealed book to him.

A propos of Latin, "Vox Urbis," the new Latin fortnightly paper published in Rome, is winning golden opinions everywhere. There is no denying that Italians have an ease and elegance in writing Latin which no other nation has preserved. The Latinity of the "Vox Urbis" is as far above that of the "Præco Latinus" in prespicuity and raciness as Shakespeare is above Browning or Kipling above writers of dime novels. The editor of the Præco is ever bristling with starchiness; he seems to have swallowed the biggest attainable lexicon. On the contrary all the writers in the Vox discourse with the graceful freedom of well-bred people who have never known any but the

most refined language. And the matter is quite in keeping with the manner, embracing a wide range of subjects in literature, politics, religion, science, archaeology, history and philosophy.

For the better understanding of the article we quote from "La Minerve" it may be as well to remind our readers that the Catholics of the Province of Quebec have, for some years past, granted to the Protestant School Board more than their due share of the school taxes and that they now, very naturally, want to adjust the tax to the ever increasing preponderance of the Catholic element.

We have received from the publishers, the Union Mutual Music and Novelty Co., a copy of "Holy Angels", a musical reverie, suitable for piano or organ, composed by George D. Wilson. It is a nice little dreamy piece, rather monotonous and exhibiting no special merit. Perhaps the best feature in its eight pages is the beautiful frontispiece representing an angel with an infant in his arms.

Two or three months ago we hauled up rather short a writer in "The Review" of St. Louis for saying that holy communion could never be administered at Midnight Mass. We proved by the common custom in Canada, where rubrics are faithfully observed, that the permission to do so must be easy to obtain. It has taken the Review contributor all this time to confess that he was mistaken. He does so in The Review of Feb. 16, but he is careful not to mention our article which was the first to stop his ignorant fault-finding, nor does he apologize to "Our Boys and Girls' Own" for sharply accusing them of ignorance when the ignorance was all his own. Is this honest?

Rev. Father Fallon's mission promises to be a splendid and most solid success. His opening sermon at High Mass last Sunday was a luminous and eloquent statement of the action of the Holy Ghost in the Church. His first hortatory sermon in the evening revealed the intense earnestness, selflessness and fervor of the great preacher. The very first words of advice as to the spirit in which the Mission should be made, though uttered in the most natural and quiet way, startled the whole audience into eager, self-accusing attention. One of the most strikingly impressive things he said was that, if anybody came merely to listen to the sermons and did not intend to turn to God, he or she had better stay away.

The week before last "Le Manitoba" published an excellent plan for facilitating the incoming of settlers from the United States. This plan was conceived and drawn up by Rev. Father Morin, who has had so much practical and successful experience in planting settlers in the Northwest. Father Morin writes to the Hon. Mr. Sifton, proposing that the Government should advance passage money to such French Canadian and other immigrants from the States as bring with them \$500 in money or effects, the loaned passage money, if not

repaid within three years by the immigrants, to be secured by mortgage on the homestead and stock. The half of this loan, if repaid within three years, will bear no interest. Let us hope the Government will realize, as any fair-minded person does at the first glance, that the advent of such carefully selected Canadian immigrants under such excellent conditions will be infinitely preferable to Doukhobor immigration.

The University of Ottawa Review for January came to us only ten days ago. This is a strong number. Particularly able are the book reviews, more especially the critique of Dr. Drummond's poems, "racy with twinkling humor, tender with a melting pathos, intensely dramatic, and throughout all, and better than all, flowing with the milk of good nature." Mr. L. E. O. Payment, so well known in this province as a public school teacher and who will graduate at the University this year, contributes an exhaustive paper on "The Moon", being the text of a lecture delivered before the Scientific Society of the University of Ottawa. In so well-worn a subject he manages to find new and interesting aspects. A curious item of college news recorded in the U. of O. R. is the fact that a debate on the question whether physical culture should be a part of every university curriculum was decided in favor of the negative.

**THE LATE MR JAMESON.**

It is safe to assert that never did the people of Winnipeg as a whole receive such a shock as that which they experienced on Wednesday morning when, on taking up their newspapers, the first thing that met their eyes was the dread announcement of the sudden death of Mr. R. W. Jameson, M. P. for the city. To the business portion of the community it was well known that he had attended the previous afternoon an important meeting of the Board of Trade, at which he had taken part in a debate concerning a matter vitally affecting the future of Western Canada, and those who had heard his speech, so full of vitality and outlining in no uncertain way the course he intended to follow in the matter at the coming session of the Dominion Legislature, found it almost impossible to believe that within two or three hours the strong and healthy man they had listened to had passed away under such tragic circumstances. And not only the business men, but citizens of every class were equally shocked, for probably there was no better known personality in the city, and by all he was looked upon as a man in the prime of life and vigor, who ought in the ordinary course of nature be expected to attain a ripe old age.

There is no need for us to recount in detail for the information of our readers the circumstances of the case, for we are sure that all have made themselves acquainted with the statements which have appeared in the daily press. Briefly it may be said that, after attending the meeting to which we have referred, Mr. Jameson went to his home on McDermott avenue, where he took dinner with his

wife and family, after which he retired to his room for his usual cigar. In a short time he went into the kitchen, where his wife was busy with some household duties, and passed some remark about firearms. He had in his hand a small revolver and his wife, whose head was turned, heard a half-smothered report, and turning round found him stretched on the ground. An immediate examination being made it was found that a bullet from the revolver had entered his mouth, passed through the inner skull and lodged in the base of the brain causing instantaneous death. Beyond these bare facts nothing is known; it is quite impossible for anyone to say how the revolver came to be discharged, but from all the circumstances it appears that it was a most deplorable accident and the result of carelessly handling a very deadly firearm.

The late Mr. Jameson was the son of a distinguished English army officer and was born in 1851. He was a man of a very liberal education, being a B. A. of Cambridge University. He was a barrister when he came to Canada and practised in Toronto until 1881, in which year he took up his residence in Winnipeg and has since lived here practising his profession and taking an important part in public affairs. He served as alderman and mayor of the city, and in 1897 was elected to the Dominion Parliament. As a private citizen he had the reputation of being kindly and charitable to a fault, and as a public man he was looked upon as honest and capable. As Catholics we cannot of course altogether forget the one great mistake he made during his public career when, being mayor of the city, to which office he had been largely assisted by the Catholic vote, he presided at the meeting held here during the 1896 election campaign by the late Dalton McCarthy. We never could understand how it was he consented to take such a position, and it was, so far as we are concerned, the one dark blot in the career of an otherwise impartial and fair-minded civic official. Our feeling on this point, however, does not prevent us from participating in the general sorrow for the untimely removal of a public man who was in many ways considerably above the average of our politicians, and, above all, it cannot stand in the way of our joining in the universal expression of sympathy for the bereaved wife and children in their terrible affliction.

**WINNIPEG'S POPULATION.**

A "Constant Reader" writes to us complaining that a fortnight ago, in speaking of the Hotel Manitoba fire, we incidentally credited Winnipeg with a population of only 40,000, while Henderson's Directory for 1899 estimates it at 49,000. We beg to remark, in reply, that we were fully aware of the Directory estimate, and even of the still higher estimate (55,000) of one of our contemporaries, but that we attach more importance to facts than fancies. Henderson's Directory we consider a very fanciful, because very inaccurate, production. During the many years we have thumbed it we have always found it

full of blunders. This year's edition has not been out long, and yet we find omissions or mistakes cropping up everywhere as we have occasion to use it. For instance, though the name of Christie street stares us in the face on the side of T. Finkelstein's house, that house does not appear under Christie street in the Directory. Again, the Christian name of A. Kohnen, the photographer, appears at his residence as Arnold, the latter being the correct version. Page 98, column 1, presents a curiosity in numbers. Where as the numbers ought to be consecutive and even, since they occur in the description of the west side of Main street, we find that after 416 come 207, 211, 416 again, 218, 220, 311, and 418, when the regular order is again resumed. In this place we are told that at 311 Main street we shall find H. W. Whitla, Alex. Haggart and the North Star Lodge. On page 104, on the contrary, 311 Main street gives us only E. L. Barber. The mystery is somewhat cleared up when, on searching for H. W. Whitla in the Alphabetical Directory, we read that he will occupy room 311 in 416 Main street (the new McIntyre Block); but there is nothing, at page 98 of the Directory, to show that 311 is not a street number but a room number in the McIntyre Block.

The compilers of the Directory cannot even arrange the names in alphabetical order. On page 313 North Presbyterian comes before North of Scotland, Northwest Navigation precedes Northwest Mounted Police, and all the titles beginning with "Northern" come after all the titles beginning with "Northwest." On page 312 we have Norton, Norman, Normal, instead of Normal, Norman, Norton and so on ad infinitum.

With such specimens of slipshod work meeting us at every turn we smile when we read in the Directory "Introductory:" "All of the information given in this Directory has been compiled in the most systematic and reliable manner," and still more do we smile when the following ungrammatical, unfinished sentence is supposed to prove the superiority of the Directory's population estimate: "The thoroughness and perfect system, characteristic of the methods of Directory Publishers, being bound by no law or statute as to who should be counted, the fact that they are here is all that we want to know." But are they here? We think one fifth of your 49,000 are not here.

We write for those chosen few who object to living in a fool's paradise, who insist upon facts. Wild estimates only do harm to business and common sense.

Now the last reliable official census of Winnipeg was taken in 1895. It shocked the optimists because it said 31,000 instead of the 38,500 of Henderson's Directory for that year; but, in spite of exclamatory protests, no inaccuracy was ever found in the official census, whereas the Directory is, as we have proved, hopelessly inaccurate. We are therefore justified in concluding that the Directory's present estimate is, as it was in 1895, almost 25 per cent. above the reality.

Here is another argument