

**NORTHWEST REVIEW**

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**Northwest Review.**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1893.

**CURRENT COMMENT.**

The Oblates' *Missionary Record* for February continues its interesting biography of Cardinal Guibert, the eminent Oblate Archbishop of Paris. Follows an account of the Industrial School at Glendalough, Western Australia, under the direction of Rev. Father O'Ryan, O.M.I. Then comes an official report of St. Kevin's Reformatory School, Glenree, Co. Wicklow, by Rev. Father Cox, O.M.I., the manager. Father John Welch continues his entertaining talks about Northwest Canada. "Yesterday and To-Day, or the present Diocese of Jaffna," is a descriptive and practical sketch by the Bishop of Jaffna, Mgr. Joulain, O.M.I. The serial, "A wreath of Roses," is concluded in this number. The "Home Foreign Notes" are less numerous than usual.

There is no foundation at all for the report, to which the local Government organ, the *Tribune*, gave currency last Thursday, to the effect that "Archbishop Langevin has expressed himself satisfied with the arrangements finally made for the settlement of the school question." Nor is it true that Dr. Bryce's proposals have proved satisfactory to His Grace. Though we are in a position to know if any arrangement had been made, we are not officially informed that such is the case, and we are quietly awaiting further developments.

In these days when complaints are so rife about tactless prayer-books, in which the prayers are either too stilted or not sufficiently scriptural, and the examination of conscience is full of unnecessary suggestiveness, it is a treat to welcome so beautiful and touchingly simple a manual of devotions as the "Catholic Prayer-book, a ready handbook of ordinary devotions, compiled for the use of colleges, convents and the faithful generally, by the Rev. Charles Cox, O.M.I., R. Washbourne, 18 Patenroster Row, London; and Benziger Bros., New York, Cincinnati and Chicago." Father Cox has contrived to pack into a convenient pocket book some six hundred pages of really useful devotions, almost one third being taken up with the Epistles and Gospels without which no Catholic prayerbook is really complete. His choice of forty English hymns is very good. The examination of conscience is delicately handled. The prayers throughout the book are easy to understand, fervent without exaggeration and redolent of Holy Writ. And, true Oblate that he is, Father Cox has treasured up the most soul-stirring appeals to the Immaculate Mother. Get your bookseller to order this prayer-book for you and your friends.

**Rumors on the School Question.**

The *Tribune* claims to have information from Ottawa purporting to establish the fact of an understanding between His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Dr. Bryce, by which the Manitoba school question would be on the verge of a further advance in the way of a practical settlement.

His Grace, Dr. Bryce and Attorney-

General Cameron, being interviewed by the *Tribune* reporter, all agree to this that no settlement has as yet been arrived at. It is, therefore, mere surmise on the part of the *Tribune* to speak as it does.

It is also somewhat surprising to read, almost in the same breath, in the columns of the local Government organ, that "His Grace was much disappointed over the Pope's encyclical" and yet would be "willing to follow its direction by accepting all concessions that can be obtained from time to time." We can assure the *Tribune* that His Grace, far from being disappointed, hailed the Encyclical with equal gladness and reverence; moreover, that both His Grace and those under his care have always been and are to this day prepared to accept any substantial concessions made, not in the narrow line laid down by the *Tribune*, but in harmony with the teachings of the Encyclical.

**Chief Osoup.**

Elsewhere we print a remarkable speech by this gifted Indian chief. All those who have had familiar intercourse with him have admired the keenness of his intellect. In dignity of manner and urbanity he is but little inferior to those famous chiefs who have died during the last ten or twelve years. Poundmaker and Crowfoot; but he surpasses them in ready wit and resourceful argument. Mr. A. E. Forget, our distinguished Commissioner, who has had frequent dealings with Osoup in his official capacity, and whose influence has had much to do with that change of heart towards the Government which Osoup so naively describes in his speech, has many a story to tell of the chief's skill in mental thrust and parry. One day Osoup came to him asking, in the name of many other chiefs, several of whom were still heathens, a special favor. Mr. Forget replied that the Government would probably be more disposed to grant their request if the heathen tribes would only give up their Sun dance, and he exhorted Osoup to try and persuade them to do so. The Government had long wished to abolish that barbarous custom, and this was an excellent opportunity for making this sacrifice in order to obtain the Government assistance which they solicited.

Osoup said: "You do not know what you are asking. I do, because I was once a heathen. Now I abominate the Sun dance; but then I looked upon it as a sacred religious rite. The heathen chiefs still look upon it in that way. You ought to put yourself in their place, and try to feel as they do. You are asking them to give up what they deem a spiritual advantage for the sake of a mere temporal favor. There is no proportion between the two, between the interests of the soul and those of the body. I am sure you yourself would not sacrifice your religion for the sake of any temporal advantage. If the Government were to say to you: 'Mr. Forget, you shall have an increase of salary on condition that you give up going to Mass; you would reply, 'Keep your increase and I will keep my religion.' Well, that is pretty much the feeling of these poor heathens. I know now that they are in the wrong, but still they consider the Sun dance an important religious ceremony."

Here Col. Macdonald, who was present at this interview, broke in with the remark: "I don't agree with you, Osoup, that the Sun dance is a religious ceremony. Why, I have often seen the chiefs charge white visitors twenty-five cents a head to see the show. Surely, they would not do that, if they thought it was religious ceremony." Quick as a flash came Osoup's answer: "Why not, Colonel? Don't you white folks take up collections in your churches?" His white hearers burst into laughter, while Osoup threw back his head, opened his mouth and chuckled silently away down in his throat.

**The Nor' Wester's Attitude.**

By way of documentary evidence, we reproduce the following editorial and interviews as they appeared in the local Conservative organ, the NOR' WESTER, last Saturday.

**ECCLESIASTICALLY APPROVED TEXT BOOKS.**

The Attorney General and the Secretary of the Advisory Board deny that Hon. Col. McMillan and Dr. Bryce have any authority to promise Sir Wilfrid Laurier that text books approved by Archbishop Langevin and the Bishops will be used in the French public schools of the province. Whether these gentlemen are acting by authority or not, the public would be better pleased were no such negotiations going on. There is

no doubt that some such concessions are desired by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and no doubt Sir Wilfrid Laurier knows the men he is dealing with. The matter rests the Attorney General says, with the Advisory Board. Dr. Bryce is reputed to run the Advisory Board, and an appeal to Dr. Bryce's well known vanity by a Jubilee Premier may not be without effect. As for Col. McMillan, the reversion of the Lieutenant-Governorship is being dangled before him, and he would no doubt be glad to use his influence with his colleagues to oblige the Premier. Though Col. McMillan and Dr. Bryce may not, therefore, have been formally authorized to make concessions of this kind, it by no means follows that such concessions will not ultimately be made.

**FRENCH TEXT BOOKS.**

The Attorney-General and the Secretary of the Advisory Board on the Subject.

Hon. J. D. Cameron, Attorney-General, was seen yesterday by a Northwest reporter, in reference to the following Ottawa dispatch:

"Col. McMillan and Dr. Bryce had a conference with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other members of the Government yesterday regarding text books for the French section of the Manitoba schools. Archbishop Langevin has selected a series of French text books, which have been approved by the other Bishops. At yesterday's conference Mr. McMillan and Dr. Bryce agreed to adopt these books for use in the French schools."

After showing the dispatch to Mr. Cameron the reporter asked him if the contents were correct.

"They could not be, as neither the Provincial Treasurer (Col. McMillan) nor Dr. Bryce had authority to act."

"What schools are meant by the French schools?"

"There are no such things as French schools in Manitoba. I suppose what is meant by French schools, are the public schools in French districts."

"Was Dr. Bryce commissioned to act in the matter either by the Advisory Board, or by the Government?" was next asked.

"Certainly not by the Government and not by the Advisory Board, so far as I am aware, and had the Board commissioned him, I would have known it," was the answer.

"Was Archbishop Langevin ever consulted on this matter, and if so, where?" was queried.

"His Grace has never been consulted by the Government, or by the Advisory Board on the matter. The Government has always been ready and willing to appoint His Grace to a seat on the Advisory Board, but as to consulting with him on this particular matter, it has not done so."

"Why was the matter submitted to Sir Wilfrid Laurier?" was questioned.

"So far as the Government is aware, Sir Wilfrid Laurier has not been consulted on the matter at all, nor does the Government intend consulting him on it. The policy of the Government is the same now as it has ever been, and you can rest assured that no material change in the school law will be made," replied Mr. Cameron.

**Doctor Blakely Speaks.**

Dr. Blakely, Secretary of the Advisory Board, stated most emphatically that no meeting of the Advisory Board had been held to specially consider this matter, though it had come up incidentally at several of the meetings of the Board. The visit of Dr. Bryce to the East just now, was in no way connected with the matter, so far as he knew, nor had the Board asked or authorized Dr. Bryce to act in the matter for them.

Asked as to the correctness of the information in the telegram, the Doctor said he knew nothing about it, but he did not believe it was correct, for the reasons already given. It may, however, be correct so far as a conference between Messrs. McMillan and Bryce with Sir Wilfrid Laurier was concerned.

**No School Legislation.**

Selection of French Text Books Does Not Affect the Law.

FREE PRESS Feb. 18.

The telegraphic report from Ottawa to the effect that Hon. D. H. McMillan and Dr. Bryce had agreed to adopt certain French text books selected by Mgr. Langevin for use in Manitoba schools, might lead to the impression that it is the intention of the local government to introduce some amendments to the educational act. Such is not the intention; in fact it may be stated positively that there will be no legislation of importance in connection with that law at the forthcoming session of the legislature. Some amendments of a minor nature, that will not affect the principle of the law may, however, come up. The selection of text books is a matter that comes wholly within the powers of the advisory board.

**THE CENTRE PARTY.**

Avo Maria.

No sooner did it become tolerably certain that the Holy Father's decision concerning the Manitoba school question was adverse to the Laurier-Greenway settlement, than the press of both political parties in Canada began to emphasize the point that the question was out of federal politics for good; that neither Conservatives nor Liberals would ever again take it up. The wish is doubtless father to the thought; but we quite fail to see why the Catholics of the Dominion—two-fifths of the whole population—can not form a central party able to dictate terms to either Grits or Tories, and capable of extorting from either the fullest restitution of the rights which England's highest court has declared to belong to the Manitoba Catholics. Those who are trying to persuade themselves that the school question is a dead issue in Canadian politics are likely to be surprised in a future not very remote.

Our sagacious contemporary hits the nail on the head. Unfortunately, the wood is knotty and so the nail has a hard time of it. Lately, a fraction of the French Catholic Liberals have started a paper in Manitoba which is merely a split in a split of the Catholics. This does not promise well for concerted action. Are Canadian Catholics doomed to dissension as were the Poles and as now seem to be the Irish Home Rulers? —Ed. N.W.R.

**Convention of the Oblates.**

Rev. Father Hugonnard elected Delegate to the Paris Chapter.

On Thursday the 17th inst. a Convention of the Oblate Fathers of the diocese was held at St. Mary's Presbytery, Winnipeg. The object of the assembly was to elect a delegate to represent the Vicariate of St. Boniface at the next General Chapter of the Congregation, which will be held in Paris on the 16th of May for the purpose of electing a Superior General to succeed the Very Rev. Father Soullier, lately deceased.

The Convention consisted of His Grace and 23 Oblate Fathers, ten others who were unable to assist having forwarded their votes in sealed envelopes.—The following is a list of the names of those who were present:—His Grace Archbishop Langevin, Rev. Fathers Allard, V.G., Camper, Poitras, P. Magan, Dandurand, Beaudin, Hugonnard, McCarthy, Lacasse, Guillet, Lecoq, Cahill, Campeau, Page, Favreau, Coutlee, O'Dwyer, Dorais, Jacob, Chaurmont, George, Comeau, Bousquet.

At 8 o'clock, mass was celebrated by His Grace Archbishop Langevin, in the private Chapel of the Presbytery. The day being the 72nd anniversary of the approbation of the Rules and Constitutions of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate by Pope Leo XII., all the Fathers and Brothers present renewed their vows of religion before the Blessed Sacrament exposed. At 9:30 the Chapter, over which His Grace presided, was duly opened with prayer, and the voting resulted in the election of Rev. Father Hugonnard as delegate.

Father Hugonnard was born in the Department of Isère in France, and came as missionary to the Northwest about 24 years ago. He was the chief agent employed by the late Archbishop Taché in founding the Indian Industrial School at Qu'Appelle, where he has acted as principal during the last 14 years. Under his able management this school has made rapid progress, and, at the present time, stands at the head of all the Indian Industrial Schools in the Northwest. Father Hugonnard has under his direction not less than 220 young Indians, all of whom, besides receiving a primary education in the ordinary branches, are taught one or more trades. The election of the Rev. Father

as delegate for the General Chapter was received with complete satisfaction by the whole assembly.

**The Newman Literary Guild.**

To the Editor of the NORTHWEST REVIEW. SIR,

Rev. Father Guillet, O. M. I. lectured before the "Newman Literary Guild" on Friday evening last, the subject being "Use and Abuse of Novels." The Rev. Father spoke for nearly one hour, and his lecture proved so interesting and instructive that he was urgently requested to continue the same subject at an early date, in which he kindly acquiesced. Before retiring he expressed himself as being highly pleased with the progress the guild had made since its inception. He also stated that he would be glad to see the ladies of both parishes join the association, as no doubt there was talent among the gentler sex that such a society as this would develop, and as there were some very complimentary remarks passed about the ability of some of our young ladies, it is a pity they were not present to hear them. On a vote being taken it was unanimously carried that the ladies be admitted as members of the guild. It was also decided to carry on the work of journalism within the precincts of the guild and accordingly two associate editors were appointed to prepare a prospectus for next meeting. Next debate: Resolved that the printing press is more beneficial to mankind than the steam engine: E. Golaen, affirmative; F. Marrin, negative. Yours sincerely, A. H. KENNEDY.

**UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ENGLISH.**

A committee of Harvard professors recently made an effort to ascertain the training that students of the University had received in English prior to their entrance upon the college course. About 1300 papers written by students were examined and "crudeness of thought and execution and surprising immaturity" were found to be the "general characteristics." From the essays composed by "graduates of normal schools" it appeared that "the normal school standard is unduly low." "Of the students now admitted to Harvard, about twenty-five per cent are unable to write their own language with the ease and freedom necessary for success in any college course." These students, mind you, do not come directly from the elementary public schools; they are high and normal schools graduates. The conclusion presses itself upon us that the English work of secondary schools, no less than that of the primary schools, is poor and unsatisfactory in the chief of its branches. What a "testimonium paupertatis!"—The Review (St. Louis).

**Silk from Spider Web.**

New Ideas. A reward of \$5,000 was offered by the manufacturer's Union of Great Britain, to any one who would accomplish the feat of making fine silk from spider's web. It is now declared that M. Cachot, a Frenchman, has discovered a method of successfully doing this and it is probable that he will claim the reward.

He recently invited a company of manufacturers to inspect the workings of his process. He first took them to the abode of the curious creatures. There, in a dimly-lighted room, clinging to the side walls and upon the rafters, were hundreds of large Madagascar spiders. A diet of insects, houseflies, small living things of all kinds, and plenty of water is all these little fiends require. They spin their most valuable webbing while trying to imprison the victims they have caught. The webbing is very strong, and permits of being wound off readily. The spider is allowed a few turns around the fly, and then the web issuing from its abdomen is caught by a delicate hook, fastened to a bobbin and wound off as fast as the spider produces it. One spider will spin in a week sufficient web to fill a bobbin as large as a peanut. As long as it is well-fed it will continue to create its filmy thread until it dies. The fabric that M. Cachot wove from it was silky in touch, and as fine as the best Oriental products. The *Textile American* says that the robes that Cleopatra boasted she could draw through a ring were probably made of this finest of all known materials. It is possible that the wonderfully delicate silks of the ancients were made of spider web, since with all the increased facilities and knowledge of modern times, they have never been duplicated. The start has been made. The development will be watched with interest.