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REV. A. A. CHERRIER,
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Northwest Review.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1900

CURRENT COMMENT

Mr. H. C. St. Pierre, Q. C., of Montreal, said, on the occasion of rejoicing over recent South African victories in the Court of Queen's Bench: "There are 50 French Canadians in the 1000 men who compose the first contingent. The proportion therefore, is that of one in twenty. In the list of wounded, composed of 39, I find that the proportion of the French Canadians is that of one to three, or one to four. This fact speaks louder than words, and ought to silence once and forever the detractors and slanderers of our race." The test of wounds is indeed a crucial one. Mere enlistment does not mean much. A very large proportion of the volunteers for South Africa have their eye chiefly on gold and diamonds. But bearing the brunt of the battle is proof positive of valiant patriotism.

Swinburne is out with a sonnet on "The turning of the Tide," chiefly remarkable for its lack of truth and for its antagonism against the noble spirit of Kipling's "Recessional." Alluding to the attitude all thoughtful Britishers took of our recent disasters, he sneers in this fashion:

"Fear was fain to prate
Of honor in dishonor, pride
brought low,
And humbleness, whence holi-
ness must grow,
And greatness born of shame to
be so great."

The cultured classes of St. Boniface and Winnipeg seem to be taking a lively interest in the forthcoming Greek tragedy at St. Boniface College. Several letters of inquiry or of request to secure admission presage a large audience. As the College Hall does not comfortably seat more than three hundred spectators, it may be necessary to act the play in a Winnipeg theatre. Meanwhile partial rehearsals are going on every day. The general rehearsal announced last week for the 10th inst. has been postponed to the 13th at 8 p. m. Some former students of the college have kindly consented to lend their valuable assistance to the strengthening of the Greek choruses. The date for the public presentation of "Philocte-

tes" is now fixed at the 19th of this month, the anniversary of the consecration of His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface, in whose honor the tragedy has been prepared.

A very successful "Congrès Pédagogique," or convention of the French-English Teachers' association, was held last Wednesday and Thursday in Leclerc's Hall, St. Boniface. About sixty teachers were present, the chair being occupied by Mr. J. A. Prénoveau, B. A., who made the opening speech. Mr. J. F. Létourneau, M. A., read a paper on the teaching of Arithmetic; Miss Anna Kéroack read one on the Sister Languages, French and English; Mr. Ed. P. de Laforest gave a paper on Reading; Miss Vena Rhéaume, of St. Eustache, read an essay on the Teaching of Literature; and Mr. W. A. McIntyre greatly interested the teachers by his earnest talk on Great and Small things in teaching.

The following officers were elected: Hon. presidents, A. L. Young and R. Goulet; president, J. F. Létourneau; vice-president, Miss Anna Kéroack; secretary, J. P. H. Leblanc; executive committee, Messrs. J. A. Prénoveau and A. Cléroux.

A pleasing feature of this representative and influential gathering was the declaration in favor of Mr. Roger Goulet, the newly appointed Inspector of Schools. A resolution was passed condemning an adverse letter signed "Un Instituteur," which appeared lately in "L'Echo de Manitoba," and requesting the "Echo" to publish this protest. The sense of the meeting was evidently strongly in favor of the gifted and active successor of Mr. Rochon. His Grace the Archbishop was present at one of the meetings and spoke a few cheering words of commendation and encouragement.

The Morning Telegram has had the good grace to publish Constable Cox's report on the charges against the Galicians of Shoal Lake, a report which proves these charges to be absolutely groundless. But the government organ might have been more generously just in its retraction. It says editorially that the "report shows the charges of the Shoal Lake Star to be very exaggerated," while Constable Cox says he could find no evidence anywhere of any crime or misdemeanor. The Telegram also grudgingly admits that the Attorney General's action "has relieved this particular settlement of Galicians of an unwarranted stigma." This implied reservation with regard to the stigma that may attach to other Galician settlements is, to say the least, an unwarranted and shabby proceeding.

Here is an afterclap of the great hockey match taken from a private letter from Montreal: "The Winnipeggers are returning to the woolly west, wiser and sadder men. But let it be known to all men that Gingras covered himself with glory for his rapid play. The match was the grandest, cleanest hockey ever played, so the professionals say. And the excitement in town! The relief of Kimberly wasn't a patch on it. Here are

a couple of details you may not find in the press:—It looked blue for the Shamrocks just ten minutes before the end on that decisive Friday night. The Shamrock boys retired to the dressing-room and said all together one "Hail Mary." Frank Wall came out on the ice and, before seven thousand spectators, blessed himself à la Brownson. In one minute a rush gave them a goal, the game, the championship, the cup and all the bloomin' glory they could wish for."

It speaks well for Catholic training that every one of the seven champions in this most exciting of all sports—where fever heat and icy coolness must go hand in hand—was a Catholic. Nor does it argue ill of Jesuit training that the Captain of the Champions, Harry Trihey, and two of his best men, Jack Brannen and Arthur Farrell (not Scanlan, as we said by mistake some time ago) had been students of St. Mary's College, Montreal, while Tony Gingras, the most popular man on the home team, got all his classical lore here at St. Boniface College.

**FATHER LACOMBE'S JOUR-
NEY.**

In his seventy-fourth year and while suffering from poor health, the venerable Oblate missionary, Father Lacombe, started the day before yesterday for Ottawa and Montreal on his way to Europe. He will visit, besides his own Superior General in Paris, the Superior of the Salesian Brothers, some of whom he hopes to secure for the management of his half-breed settlement at Egg Lake, Alberta. He will also try to obtain a Trappist colony for some part of the diocese of St. Albert. Father Lacombe's many interests and the important matters confided to him by His Lordship Bishop Grandin may very probably take him as far as Rome and thus afford him an opportunity of gaining the Jubilee indulgence. We need hardly bespeak for this beloved and revered missionary the prayers of all our readers, in order that he may succeed in his several undertakings and come back to us with a new lease of life.

UNIVERSITY MATTERS.

Last Thursday's meeting of the University Council was a very important one. First, the death was announced of Miss Eliza Isbister, sister and last survivor of the family of Dr. Isbister, the generous benefactor of the University. By the provisions of the will the funds, from which Miss Isbister's annuity was derived, are transferable to the University. The chancellor will appoint a committee to deal with this welcome accretion to the University's resources.

Secondly, Canon Matheson read a remarkably well drawn up report of the Land Committee's exceedingly efficient work during 1899 and up to Feb. 1, 1900. The sales made amounted to 7,094 acres at an average price of \$5.70½ per acre. As the balance in hand was \$5,237.26, and payments would be coming in every year, there seemed no necessity for further infringing on the University property of 150,000 acres; but on an unopposed motion of Dr. Bryce the limit of land which may be sold by the land committee was increas-

ed from 10,000 to 15,000 acres. Thus one tenth of the University land grant is already under the hammer, although the foundations of the first University building are only just level with the ground.

Thirdly, the Building Committee are empowered to proceed with the erection of the building, according to the plans and specifications, which no one had the curiosity to examine, though they were exposed to view and though the architect waited in vain to be questioned about them. The council went at the whole thing blindly.

Fourthly,—and this was the most significant event of the meeting—the representatives of Convocation moved that their number should be increased from seven up to 16 at present and 20 later on. It is well known that the representatives of Convocation are really the representatives of the graduates, since all the other members of Convocation, compared to the total of the graduates, are hardly more than as one to sixteen. The discussion was a curious and instructive example of the diplomatic use of language for the concealment of thought. One of the most notorious facts in the history of the graduate vote is the invariable election of graduates from that college which counts more graduates than all the other colleges put together. The cabals of the graduates of that college and their yearly gatherings in caucus in a well-known Winnipeg lawyer's office are matters of public knowledge. Most public also was the exposure, some years ago, of the ticket they circulated among themselves. Yet all of their representatives in the council vied with each other in acrobatic feats of cant and humbug. They were not graduates of any college, no, not they; they were graduates of Manitoba University; they merely voted for the best men; they would vote for seven men from St. Boniface College if these were the best; it was just a coincidence that so many of the seven should have passed through that college; if their number was increased, their monopoly would no doubt cease and representatives of other colleges would come in; and so on "ad nauseam." A distinguished representative of one college whose hundred graduates have never secured one representative on the council privately characterized these protestations as "popycock." However, numbers are sure to prevail against reason and the graduates, who have never labored for the University otherwise than with their tongues and their votes, will end by swamping those who do the real work. The tail will wag the dog more powerfully than ever.

FATHER LACOMBE.

**TAKES LEAVE OF CALGARY FOR A
TIME.**

Under the heading "A Little Souvenir," the following letter from the Venerable Father Lacombe appeared in the "Daily Herald," of Calgary, Feb. 19th, 1900.

To the Gentlemen of The Herald;
My Dear Sirs: * On the point of leaving for a long trip and a far away journey, let me say to you "Good Bye," and through your paper "Au Revoir" to my friends of Calgary. As delegate by my ecclesiastical superiors, being entrusted with a special mission to Europe, in behalf of our church, in this North West, I will have to pass through England, France, Italy, Belgium, etc., where we have so many supporters of our missions. Probably I will have the good fortune to enjoy the Jubilee

festival in Rome, during the holy year of 1900, with the blessing of the Pope, Leo XIII. At Paris, where I will have to stay some time, I will admire the marvels of the Exposition.

Though far away from you and busy with so much preoccupation, I will not forget you. I will remember what The Herald has been for this place, principally when some twenty years ago, we, the old timer, were working hand in hand to make this new town. Our neighbors, the newcomers, don't know what trials and difficulties we had to go through to establish this "bottom of Bow River." Yes, now to-day, pointing to my old friend Mr. Braden, I want to say what we have done at the time of the rebellion: of the building of the Canadian Pacific. We remember yet our work, day and night, for the bridges, and so many other improvements for the good of the settlers. For one, I remember with pleasure, The Herald of old. Today I am proud of your prosperity and I pray that you will prosper more and more. Of course, we owe all these good things of our town, "the Queen of the West," churches, schools, convent, hospitals and so many other public establishments to the kind Providence of God, and after, to the generous harmony of the citizens, old and new.

Therefore, my friends, I wish you a happy future. Your paper will be always a success if you continue to help in this country harmony, kindness, charity and above all the great Christian axiom: "All things therefore whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do you also to them."

Truly yours, with my best wishes,
FATHER A. LACOMBE,

O. M. I.
N.B.—My address will be Rev. Père A. Lacombe, O. M. I., 26, Rue de St. Pétersbourg, Paris, France. In case of absence, my letters will be forwarded to me in the other countries where I might travel.

After a cold drive a teaspoonful of Pain-Killer mixed with a glass of hot water and sugar will be found a better stimulant than whiskey. Avoid substitutes, there is but one Pain-Killer, Perry Davis'. 25c. and 50c.

The Japs did it—They supplied us with the menthol contained in that wonderful D. & L. Menthol Plaster, which relieves instantly backache, headache, neuralgia, rheumatism and sciatica. Manufactured by the Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd.

A Winnipeg contemporary heads Mayor Wilson's objections to the reduction in the price of gas with this title: "His reason for regret seems a feasible (sic) one," "Feasible," even when rightly spelt, does not mean "reasonable" or "plausible," but as its French origin (faisable) implies, "that which may be done" or "practicable." Our contemporary's misuse of the word seems common among Winnipeg reporters.

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