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WEDNESDAY, JULY 8.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Symmetrical Leaderettes. One of the most curious feats in journalistic literature is the first page of the New World, an interesting Catholic newspaper published in Chicago. Week after week that first page is completely filled with editorial remarks on recent events, each remark constituting a special paragraph, and all the paragraphs being of almost precisely the same length. For instance, in the issue of June 27th, this wonderful page contains thirty-three paragraphs, twenty-eight of which end on the seventh line, only five making bold to trespass very slightly on the eighth line. Were this mathematical precision accompanied by labored conciseness or meaningless platitudes, it still would be a remarkable feat; but the marvel of it all is that the editor's remarks seem to fit without apparent effort into the rather small compass he has chosen, and they are generally both judicious and suggestive.

Unwise Opposition. We are pained to notice the persistence with which our otherwise admirable contemporary, La Verite, discourages the immigration of French Canadians to Manitoba. The few French Canadians who go thither, say the editor and the correspondents he approves, will be lost in the large majority of hostile Protestants. By going to Manitoba these dribbles of our population are courting that religious persecution for which the prairie province has now earned such unenviable fame. Devote your energy to peopling the vast unsettled area of the province of Quebec. Our esteemed contemporary mistakes our purpose. We have no intention of depriving Quebec of its intending settlers. The question is not: Shall we persuade our French Canadian brothers to leave Quebec for Manitoba? but: Can we not induce those who are determined upon immigration from the mother province to come to Manitoba and the Northwest in preference to the United States? No doubt it would be much better if all our French co-religionists remained in their native province and developed its great resources; but we must take facts as they are. Many are annually leaving the province of Quebec. The editor of La Verite imagines he can stop them by pointing to undeveloped home settlements. Past experience contradicts this imaginary power. These emigrants are bent upon moving away. We are too practical to entertain the hope of stemming the current; what we aim at, therefore, is to divert it into another Canadian channel. And, as to the contention that the French Canadians who settle in the Northwest are mere dribbles destined to be swallowed up in the sea of hostile settlers, facts again speak quite the other way. Last year, 1895, the immigration of Catholics to Manitoba and the North-

west almost equalled that of all other denominations. The relative numerical importance of our Catholic population is growing every year. Our natural increase, thanks to the largeness of French Canadian families, is greater than that of any other body of settlers. Ere long we hope to hold the balance of power in this province. Besides, the recent elections show that non-Catholic Manitobans are coming round to a less bigoted and more enlightened view of our rights. Finally, as regards this province in particular, where the total population has not yet reached two hundred thousand, the slightest addition to our numerical strength is a valuable makeweight towards securing a fair treatment from the well-meaning majority.

The League Hymnal.

We have lately received "The League Hymnal," a collection of Sacred Heart Hymns, embracing all the hymns in the League Devotions arranged to suitable tunes, original and selected, by Rev. William H. Walsh, S. J. Apostleship of Prayer, 27 and 29 West 16th street, New York. This is really a very fine collection both in point of words and music. Of the fifty hymns which it contains no less than fourteen are set to music by the editor, Father Walsh. We are especially pleased with the beautiful simplicity of its arrangement for the well-known English Messenger's "Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam," beginning with the words,

"Heart of Jesus, thou hast kindled
In our souls a restless flame."

Eleanor C. Donnelly, Lady Georgiana Fullerton, Father Caswall, Eliza Allan Starr, Father Matt. Russell, S. J., Sir Joseph Barnby, Rev. F. Stanfield, Father de Zulueta, S. J., Father Van Rensselaer, S. J., Father Faber, John J. Branin, Father Albany J. Christie, S. J., and Rev. A. D. Bradley have all contributed their songs of praise and love. For simple pathos we would commend Our Home (second tune), words by Father Stanfield, music by Stephenson; for pleasing variety of tones, Weary of Sin, "O Jesus, open wide thy Heart, And let me rest therein," etc.; for sweet melody of words and notes, Father Russell's "Our Hearts are Thine;" for harmonious setting, in allegretto measure, of St. Alphonsus' thought, Father de Zulueta's "I dwell a captive in the Heart." An excellent feature of this League Hymnal is the choral service for the public exercises of the Holy League, music by Rev. F. M. de Zulueta, S. J., who, by the way, is the son of a former Spanish ambassador to the Court of St. James, and was brought up in England, where he resides. This choral service gives the notes for singing a decade of the beads, for the Litany of the Holy Name, for the specimen psalm, 102, "Bless the Lord, O my soul," and for such short invocations as "O sweetest Heart of Jesus, I implore, That I may love Thee ever more and more." This is followed by the O Salutaris and the Tantum Ergo in Gregorian, and the Te Deum as translated into English by Father Clarence Walworth. The League Hymnal costs only one dollar.

A REPLY.

Under the heading "Floppers" the Winnipeg Tribune of the 3rd inst. deals in its own peculiar way with the position we have taken in view of the results of the late elections. Our readers will not need to be told that in criticising us the Tribune writer is by no means particular about keeping on the right side of the line which separates truth from falsehood, and they will not be surprised to hear that he makes use of his old tricks of misrepresentation and unfair extracts to bolster up his assertion that for ulterior reasons we have found it expedient to make a "rapid evolution from Tupper to Laurier." Those who have followed the course of the Review from the opening of the campaign down to the present date know that such an allegation, and its

attendant insinuations, are absolutely untrue, and further that they could not be true inasmuch as we have no private ends to serve in supporting either of the two political parties, but have only one object, namely, to assist those who it seems to us are prepared to deal justly by those whose interest we serve. We have lost none of our admiration for Sir Charles Tupper. We still hold that Mr. Laurier should have supported him in his efforts to carry out the decision of the Privy Council, and in each issue published since the election we have plainly stated this and reiterated what we had previously said to the effect that the course pursued by the opposition down to the close of the last session was not such as was calculated to inspire confidence amongst the friends of the Manitoba minority. We have not changed our opinions on these points, but we claim we are free now, that Mr. Laurier is in power, to express our confidence in his intention to carry out the pledges he made, and also to promise him our loyal support in anything he inaugurates which may seem to us to show an earnest desire to restore our rights and privileges. We think our course is a perfectly consistent one, and we are strengthened in this opinion by the fact that the Tribune in order to put us in the wrong is compelled to quote from our article of last week certain passages wrenched from their context in such a way that they certainly do not convey to its readers a true idea of the statement we made. The Tribune is equally dishonest in its comments, for most of them are positively untrue and contain assertions which are absolutely without foundation. For instance, we have not "for weeks past, during the whole contest heaped abuse upon Mr. Laurier;" we have not "constantly referred to the fight as 'one between ignorant bigotry on the one side and educated fairmindedness on the other,'" (we used the expression only once and that after the election was over, and as a fitting description of the contest in Winnipeg), and we have not done the many other things which the Tribune accuses us of. We have conducted a fair and square fight; without party bias we have advocated the cause of those whom we looked upon as most deserving of our support, and we shall always do this without fear or favor. We have published no bogus telegrams, we have not sought to gain our point by stirring up the passions of the illiterate and the ignorant, and we have printed no garbled extracts from our contemporaries. All this the Tribune has done not once but over and over again, and its recklessness and audacity in these contemptible methods were never more strongly illustrated than in the article to which we have referred. The editor of the Tribune is now, as the representative of one of the Manitoba constituencies, a public man, and for the credit of the province we hope that he will shew himself more sensible of his responsibilities in his new career than he has shewn in his capacity as a journalist.

"FLOPPERS."

Under the above classic heading that delightfully truthful and cultured exponent of public opinion in Manitoba, the Tribune, charges the Northwest Review with "flopping" over from Tupper to Laurier. If any course pursued by this journal could meet the approval of the Tribune, we should feel humiliated. We, therefore, accept with gratitude its abuse of us.

If we have "flopped" to Mr. Laurier, as the Tribune says we have, on the school question, then we are in excellent company. By defending "Mr. Laurier's followers" in this province, has not Manitoba "flopped" on the school question? By refusing to follow the Toronto Globe in its wild and senseless attack on Remedial legislation, did not the people of Ontario "flop" on the school question? Did not the honorable gentleman's candidates in Quebec outbid their opponents in pledging themselves to support remedial legislation agreeable to the

biarchs of their province and thus "flop" over to our side? The cause of the Review is the cause of the minority. For that alone it exists and for that it has been struggling against tremendous odds for the last six years. We supported the policy of Sir Charles Tupper because he had pledged himself, if elected, to grant remedial legislation. He has proved his sincerity by promising, even in opposition, to assist Mr. Laurier in settling this question. The Review has never "flopped" on this question and never will. If there has been any "flopping," it has been among the friends and allies of the Tribune, not in this office. The Review would be very churlish indeed, were it to rudely repel these "floppers" to our cause. We cannot question the right of Quebec to say that Mr. Laurier will settle this question more fully and satisfactorily than Sir Charles Tupper. They have said so. Would the Tribune have us refuse relief at the hands of Mr. Laurier? We expressly said, in the article complained of by the Tribune, that we took back nothing; that our position was the same on this question; but "we are prepared to give Mr. Laurier and his followers credit for the very best intentions in their past actions and to believe that now they are in power their sole desire will be to promote the welfare of the country and to protect and cherish the rights and liberties of every section of the community." * * * "We are prepared to let bygones be bygones and to accept Mr. Laurier's explanations of the course which he adopted. We believe that whatever else happens, under Mr. Laurier's rule, our wrongs will be righted."

In another article which the Tribune is careful to ignore, though it was clearly the most important one in our last issue, we spoke of our demands on Mr. Laurier, not as partisans, but as arbiters in the struggle. Here is the quotation from our editorial headed "Retrospect and Prospect":

"Nor will the Catholic minority stand in Mr. Laurier's way, provided of course, he do his duty. The Catholics of this province have nobly stood by their guns. They have proved conclusively that they are of one mind with their priests. Still better informed than their Quebec sympathizers, they refused to throw in their lot with a party that has treated them so shamelessly here. But now they are willing, under the altered circumstances, to let Mr. Laurier do his best. They wish him, however, distinctly to understand that they will accept no sop, no half measures such as Mr. Greenway offered to the commissioners. What they insist upon is a final and lasting restoration of separate schools. If he does not secure to them this indispensable exercise of their acknowledged rights, his tenure of office will be uncomfortably short, and his party will, soon return to those chilling shades from which they have so recently emerged."

Where is there in this any appearance of a "flop"?

There is, however, a ludicrous side to the Tribune's article, and one which leaves it distinctly open to the charge it makes against us. It has completely "flopped over" to "Quebec, Catholic Quebec." For six years the Tribune has been abusing "Quebec, Catholic Quebec," which it now admires and applauds. Every attack made upon the rights and privileges of the French Canadians it applauded and defended. With sneer and vulgar gibe, it heaped abuse upon that people. Scarcely an issue of that paper can be found, during either local or Dominion elections, without columns of such vile abuse about "Quebec, Catholic Quebec," its customs, habits and religion. But "no sooner had Quebec, Catholic Quebec, by an overwhelming majority kicked the rubbish which composed this government into the gutter, than a change came over the spirit of the" Winnipeg Tribune's "dreams." The quotation is from the Tribune, we merely put the Winnipeg Tribune, where it put the Review. Which of us, then, is the "flopper"?

AN UNWORTHY APPEAL.

Since the country has pronounced in favor of the Liberal party, a good deal of feeling has been expressed about "French domination," "Quebec rule," etc., etc. This is not only churlish, it is unpatriotic and dangerous, being another form of appeal to racial and religious prejudices. Quebec has just as much right, through its electorate, to support Mr. Laurier and give him a majority, as the other provinces of the Dominion, as a whole, had a right of giving a majority to Sir Charles Tupper. Whatever may be our opinion of the action of Quebec, no sane men can question its right to select the policy and the party which, in the judgment of the electorate, are best calculated to carry out its wishes on the great question that is now agitating the public mind.

There can be no doubt whatever that the question of questions in Quebec at the recent election was the Manitoba School Question. That question was brought into special prominence by the mandement of the Quebec hierarchy in which the electorate were solemnly told that they were bound in conscience to vote for candidates who pledged themselves to support a remedial bill for the minority in Manitoba. As we all know, the Liberal candidates outpledged the Conservative candidates in their support of the remedial measure asked for by the bishops. It, therefore, became a question for the electorate of Quebec to decide between the relative merits of the two contending parties and decide which party were the most likely to be able to carry out the pledges they made.

The Liberals pointed out the many delays in granting relief to the minority for which the Conservative party was responsible, and assured the electorate that its promises, like those already made, would be laid aside after the elections were over. Mr. Laurier assured them, if they returned him to power, he would settle the school question to the satisfaction of the minority within six months. The people of Quebec believed Mr. Laurier, accepted his promises and returned him to power.

That is the whole situation in a nutshell. The people of Quebec believed that Mr. Laurier could settle this question in a fuller and more satisfactory manner than Sir Charles Tupper, even with the best intentions, could. It remains to be seen whether they were right or not; but it is the veriest nonsense to condemn the province of Quebec for exercising an undoubted right in this election, and to shout "French domination" and "Quebec rule."

We would like to remind our Conservative contemporaries who raise this cry that the electors of Quebec are, in point of race and religion, the dominant party in provincial matters since its history began. That fact cannot be denied. Neither can it be successfully affirmed that that dominance ever worked any evil to the minority within its gates. We have the most ample testimony of its Protestant public men that Catholic Quebec has been not only just, but generous in its treatment of them. The Catholic minority here are languishing for the same treatment from the Protestant majority. "Manitoba rule," and "Protestant domination" are full of a very different meaning.

The Toronto Globe and the Winnipeg Tribune have exhausted themselves and disgusted the people of Canada in appeals to race and religious prejudices, the former during the last elections and the latter ever since the school law of 1890 was first proposed and enacted. Such conduct is unjust and unpatriotic in the last degree and has branded with infamy those journals. Let not the Conservative press follow such exemplars, but remember the memorable words of Sir Charles Tupper when he said that he would assist Mr. Laurier, in removing the constitutional grievances of the Catholics of Manitoba. These were words worthy of the leader of a great party. Let the press of that party follow the example of its leader.