

CURRENT COMMENT

Our attention has been recently directed to a serious mistake in Wiltzius's Catholic Directory for this year. At page 419, at the end of the parishes and missions of the diocese of Marquette, we read: "Isle Royal, attended from Prince Arthur's Landing, Canada by a Jesuit Father." Now there has been, for the past twenty years, no such place as Prince Arthur's Landing. That was the old name for what is now known as Port Arthur, Ontario. One might as well call Winnipeg "Fort Garry." Moreover the Jesuit Fathers at Port Arthur do not attend Isle Royal, which is in the United States.

Not long ago a Protestant Episcopal bishop south of the International line, spoke in defence of lynching. The Protestant editor of the Springfield "Republican" rebuked him in this way: "If it were possible to fancy a Catholic bishop making any such speech concerning any race under heaven, one would know that he would speedily get his quietus from Rome. It is a shame for any Christian to speak of any race, class or condition of man as 'hopelessly degraded.' It is the business of the Church to raise all people, and to recognize the souls that lie beneath the present aspect, however discouraging it may seem."

The Smoot inquiry in the United States Senate has shocked our American neighbors, but it has not yet produced a general awakening to the prevalence in all the States of what the "Ave Maria" calls "tandem polygamy." Catholic papers have long since pointed out that frequent and easy divorce is in some respects, worse than the having several wives at a time. But the Chicago "Tribune" is one of the first non-Catholic journals to insist upon this point. It says: "While we are searching the recesses of our chaste souls for words to express our shuddering horror of simultaneous polygamy as practiced by the Mormons, we might to our consternation find that we had been providing our enemies with words most uncomfotably applicable to consecutive polygamy as practiced by ourselves. . . . Fifteen hundred years ago, when turbulent barbarians settled within the confines of the Roman Empire, it was the Catholic Church that coerced the voracious lust of the barbarian heart and bound one woman to one man till death did them part. Today, when the sacrament of marriage is threatened, not so much by savage boisterousness of passion as by the frivolity and insincerity of men and women to whom unshaken belief has become impossible, it is the Catholic Church that still refuses to make a single concession to legalised promiscuity; and that still keeps unblemished the ideal of an indissoluble spiritual union between man and wife. If we cannot subscribe to the theology of the Catholic Church in this matter neither can we fail to subscribe to its practical morality. The Smoot case ought to give a tremendous impetus to the demand for a uniform federal divorce law. The easy route to consecutive polygamy ought to be beset with more obstacles. The voice of the whole Christian community ought to become as clear and emphatic as the voice of the Catholic Church. That it never will. None but a divinely sustained Church could set its face like a flint against the myriad excuses of lawless love. And yet if divorce is to be stopped at all it must be stopped completely. Legalize divorce for one

reason alone, and lawyers will soon find a hundred other reasons.

A learned Presbyterian divine of this city, who has been studying Mormonism in its religious text books, catechisms, and other official descriptions of its history and tenets, gives it as his calm conviction that Mormons are polytheists, for they believe, not in the one and undivided Trinity, but in three Gods, and that Polygamy is the very foundation-stone of their religion, so much so indeed that Mormonism would cease to exist if it were not polygamous. It is an open secret that the Mormons that have settled in Southern Alberta practice polygamy, and that one of their best known representatives is living with three wives. It is time that our Christian population realized the fearful menace such a group of shameless infidels is to the morality of the west.

Port Arthur, Ontario—this provincial designation is very necessary just now when another Port Arthur fills so large a space in the whole world's eye—is enjoying an era of growing prosperity, much of which is due to the ability of its Mayor, Mr. George Clavet. Although Catholics are hardly one sixth of the population they can point with pride to their French Canadian Catholic Mayor, who has been twice elected to govern the town, not, of course on any religious platform, but simply and solely because he was known to be the best business man in the place. Mr. Clavet being a practical Catholic, prominent in support of the Church, there was at first no slight feeling of opposition to him among the Protestant majority, but this was overruled by the more sensible citizens who felt that they really could not afford to place the interests of the town in other and less capable hands. The town clerk and Treasurer is also an exemplary Catholic. Mr. James McTeigue is a native of Ireland, who, shortly after settling at Port Arthur, married a French girl, and is now the father of nine as promising children as this country can boast anywhere. The Provincial Auditor, after a recent inspection of Mr. McTeigue's books, declared that in all Ontario Port Arthur's books were the best kept after those of Galt. Counting the Mayor, there are seven municipal councillors, one other of whom is also a Catholic, Mr. George Horrigan, a successful meat merchant; thus we have two out of seven members of the town council. Moreover, one physician, one dentist and four lawyers, besides quite a number of well-to-do business men are Catholics and everybody knows that the local member of the Ontario legislature, Mr. James Conmee, "fighting Jim," belongs to the household of the faith. The Separate School Trustees, strongly supported and encouraged by Rev. Father Neault, S.J., pastor of St. Andrew's Church, completed last year a fine Catholic school building, which cost over \$10,000, gives ample accommodation to over two hundred children and is large enough for five or six hundred, thus keeping pace with the bright promise of future growth in Port Arthur. The pretty church is already too small, and there is serious question of putting up a larger and more imposing edifice. St. Joseph's hospital, which was greatly enlarged four years ago, is going to be still further extended this summer. Under the devoted management of the Sisters of St. Joseph, ably seconded by the Ladies' Aid, this institution enjoys an enviable reputation in all the surrounding districts. Mayor Clavet returned last week from Toronto, where he went to promote the interests of his flourishing town, and especially to fight

the Bell Telephone Company and the Current River Power Company. His example in establishing a municipal telephone at half the price of the Bell charges has made the municipal ownership movement take a great stride all over Ontario. Even Toronto, which is at present involved in a telephone contest with the Bell Company, has stated to that Company that the city will come to no agreement with them until they have made a satisfactory settlement with Port Arthur and Fort William.

The Domestic hen, that valuable Canadian asset, is laying herself out in great style at St. Andrew's rectory, Port Arthur. Far from waiting for the Easter egg season, she distinguished herself during all the past winter. Brother Fluet has only 43 laying hens, and yet he collected no less than fifty dozen eggs during the short month of February, usually a most unpropitious season, when eggs fetched fifty cents a dozen. Since last Christmas besides all the eggs he used for the priest's house and five or six hundred which he gave to the convent and the hospital, he has made about \$40 in eggs sold for cash, while his expenses for feeding them amount to about six dollars, and the time spent in taking care of them was only a few minutes each day. Is there any other farming industry that can show these returns?

Persons and Facts

J. I. Davenport, M.A., writes to the Liverpool "Catholic Times" of March 18.—So it seems after all that it is not so much the kind and character of liturgical music which is in question as the retention of the female element in our choirs. It seems strange that this uncanonical relic of Protestantism should be almost eliminated in Anglican churches, even the poorest, but should flourish like a green bay tree in ours.

Mrs. Isaac Linney Leigh, of Davenport, Stockport, was received into the Catholic Church last month, at St. Mary's, Eccles, England, by the Rev. Francis Newton. Mrs. Leigh is the youngest daughter of the late Colonel Scott, of Norwich, and is a sister in law to Sir Joseph Leigh, M.P. for Stockport.

Capt. Algernon Satoris, a grandson of General U.S. Grant, has been received into the Catholic Church at St. Louis, Mo. He has been a member of the Episcopal body.

A report says that Kaiser William has asked the Pope to erect Strasbourg into an archbishopric, with Metz as its suffragan, and a proposed bishopric at Colmar.

At a sale of famous Scottish antiquities held in Edinburgh on March 12 Queen Mary's Harp, presented by her in 1563 to Miss Beatrix Gardyn, Banchory, was sold for 850 guineas to the antiquarian Museum, Edinburgh, while the Lamont or Caledonian harp realized £525.

Mr. Peter Paul Pugin, a well known architect, who died lately at Bournemouth, England, was the great grandson of A. N. Welby Pugin, the great reviser of Gothic architecture in England, who was himself the son of a French architect who settled in London in 1798.

Under the Land's Act, Lord Emley has sold his estates in Clare and Limerick to the tenants at 2 1/2 years purchase on first term judicial rents, and 2 1/2 years purchase on second term judicial rents.

The celebration of the thirteenth centenary of St. Gregory the

Great, "the Apostle of England," which took place on Saturday with great 'eclat' at the new Cathedral, Westminster, was remarkable both for the number of ecclesiastics who took part in it and the vast congregation that was present. The former made up probably the greatest assembly of Catholic clergy that has ever taken place in London. The congregation numbered over 4,000, and some who claimed to be experts held that it approached 7,000. The accommodation of the great building was used up to the last corner. Before the celebration of High Mass there was a procession through the church the vanguard of which consisted of representatives of the various religious Orders. The music of the Mass, which followed, was a Gregorian setting beautifully rendered by the choir under Mr. R. R. Terry, the musical director of the Cathedral.—English "Catholic Times," March 18.

The Elgar Festival opened on Monday evening at Covent Garden Theatre with a very fine performance of the composer's setting of Cardinal Newman's "Dream of Gerontius." The experiment of devoting the programmes of a musical festival lasting three evenings to the works of a solitary British composer was a bold one, but Dr. Elgar's music has so rapidly taken firm hold of its hearers that the large audience, which completely packed the house, simply confirmed the impression that success would follow desert. The orchestra, under Dr. Richter, was his famous Manchester band of 100, with chorus of 275 voices, and it is doubtful whether the work has ever been more finely given. At the close of the performance the audience stood and applauded warmly until Dr. Richter brought Dr. Elgar to bow his thanks. Their majesties the King and Queen, Princess Victoria, and Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark were present.—Ibid.

Miss Alice Beaupre of St. Boniface, leaves next week for Mount Tabor, Oregon, where she will enter the novitiate of the Monastery of the Precious Blood. Miss Beaupre is the fourth St. Boniface girl who, within the past year has elected to cross half the continent in order to enter a contemplative and cloistered order of Nuns. The three others, who are already novices at Mount Tabor, are Miss Bertha Fafard, and the Misses Anna and Blanche Keroack.

Regina Notes.

Easter was in all respects a grand and long to be remembered Feast by the Catholics of Regina. Rev. Father Suffa, O.M.I., spent the day in the city. Rev. Father Kasper, O.M.I., celebrated Mass on that day, south of Grenfell, while Rev. Father Kim, O.M.I., was at Arat. Our church was crowded at all services. Railing after railing filled as the Easter penitents approached to fulfill their Easter duty. Gratifying indeed, must have been the sight to the indefatigable Fathers who early or late through storm or sunshine are ever ready to serve their parishioners and care for their souls. The music was very good indeed. Madame Keenan assisted by Mr. Lyons sang a Regina Coeli in very good style. Miss Stubbings was in her place at the organ and that phrase speaks volumes. And lastly—The Altar—Here pen fails to serve me—words fall far short of expressing my sentiments. It was beautifully decorated. Most artistically arranged and presented a most lovely tribute to Him who on this glorious Morn completed the work of our redemption.

Too much praise cannot be given Rev. Brother Schumacher for the

taste displayed and the Rev. Sisters who assisted in adorning the altar so beautifully.

Miss Stubbings was waited on by the members of St. Mary's Altar Society and a representation from the congregation, and presented with an address and purse. A most pleasant evening was passed, speeches were made by Rev. Father Kasper, O.M.I., who graced the occasion with his presence, and contributed so much to the happiness of the event. Refreshments were served and Auld Lang' Syne and the National Anthem brought an evening of music and song long to be remembered to a close.

GENA MACFARLANE.

To Miss Stubbings, Organist of St. Mary's Choir.

Dear Friend:—

The members of the Altar Society and the Choir of St. Mary's parish, in transmitting to you, through us who are assembled here this evening a substantial testimony of the respect and esteem they entertain for you as a faithful co-worker and parochial organist, desire to accompany the present with such an expression of their regard as we may deem appropriate. If however they think we can translate their hearts, and give you a true version of their feelings in words, they overrate our powers.

It is at all times a pleasing task to do honor to those we esteem, but the pleasure manifestly increases when we find that this esteem is shared by so large a body as those who form the donors in the present case. The many good services rendered by you as a parochial worker, and the ladylike conduct that has characterized your course in life has won for you the esteem and affection of all. As a friend, as a member of the Altar Society, and especially as Organist you have gained golden opinions and that fair fame that ever crowns the worker of good deeds.

As organist we gratefully realize the effective aid you have given the choir, in carrying out more grandly that sublime part of our Catholic worship—the chanting of the praises of the Lord. We also wish to give testimony to our appreciation of the highly capable manner in which you have ever assisted at the entertainments given under parish auspices.

Were you not present much more might be said and endorsed by everyone here; as it is we must be content—and now dear friend a happy task is ours—to present you in the name of the donors with this purse.

We beg to assure you in tendering this token that it is not in acquittance of any portion of the debt of gratitude we owe you as organist or as a parish worker—but simply as a recognition of the invaluable services so cheerfully and so gratuitously rendered by you and as an indication of the attachment we all cherish for you in our heart of hearts. We entreat you to accept it in that light only, being convinced that you will derive more satisfaction from the assurance that we appreciate your labors than you could possibly derive from any consideration of a more worldly nature.

In conclusion may we hope your life shall always be like your musical accompaniments—free from a jarring note, and that when you cease to play for earthly choirs may the Celestial choristers greet you with a concord of angelic strains in welcoming you to never ending felicity.

Signed on behalf of St. Mary's congregation and Ladies' Altar Society.

K. McLAUGHLIN,
K. MURPHY,
Committee.

Regina, Easter Monday, 1904.