

CURRENT COMMENT

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of Mr. Ludwig Erk's letter to that paper on the Free Mason special privilege of laying the corner stones of public schools. Like most thin-skinned critics of his class, this writer adopts the cowardly plan of attacking anonymously one who signed his full name. Fortunately there is nothing formidable in his attack. It ends, however, in a ludicrously false assertion that is worth quoting. He has the astonishing hardihood to suggest that "Mr. Erk and the other few such fire-eaters should borrow part of a leaf from Free Masonry and from it learn to 'mind their own business.'" Why, Mr. Erk's charge against Free Masonry is precisely that it does not mind its own business, when it lays the corner stone of a public school. This is a flagrant and utterly unwarrantable interference with the whole Catholic body and with multitudes of independent non-Catholics who condemn the exclusiveness, the oathbound secrecy and the unchristian tendencies of Free Masonry. Assuredly, the avowed business of the Mystic Square brethren, whatever may be their unavowed and secret purpose, is not to bring the whole country under their slavish yoke.

The "spiritual death" which Mr. Erk so justly dreads, is exemplified in the following extract from one of our English exchanges.

France has got rid of the religious from her hospitals. But at what a cost! The "Bien Public" of Dijon relates a scandal of a nature almost incredible. In the hospital there, now laicised, a poor soldier named Theophile Martin, lay waiting for death. His weakness was such that he could scarcely move, and his state required every attention which humanity needs in its hours of abject helplessness. Yet he was left uncared for, uncleaned, while the nurses played cards in the hall. His cries were piteous to hear, as piteous as the misery which his own helplessness brought upon him. He begged for his linen and his bed to be changed—his nurses went on playing their game! At last, angry at his cries, one of them rose from the gaming table, stripped off his limbs the bed clothes and heaped them, soiled and filthy as they were upon his head. Soon his cries were heard no more; death had relieved him of his sufferings, and his nurses of their unpleasant duty. Ordinary human nature shrinks even from the recital of such a story, but it is given, with full details by the "Bien Public." Evidently the French sick poor have not gained by the laicisation of the hospitals.

The Free Press of Last Tuesday voiced the indignation of Carberry citizens at the charge we made last week of habitual flouting of the Catholic priest on his visits to that town. That the Free Press correspondent has failed after inquiry to ascertain when the insult occurred is no proof that it did not. We have the testimony of several eye- and ear-witnesses. Against this testimony the astonishment of nominal Catholics who never attend the Catholic service and therefore do not know what occurs as the priest leaves the temporary chapel is utterly worthless. These things happen not only in Carberry, but to some extent in Winnipeg. If every priest who is jeered at in this city were to report each case of the kind he would not be believed and would probably get nothing but loss of time for his trouble. So long as the Tribune and other papers carry on a campaign of ridicule and abuse against Catholics, so long as ultra-Protestant firebrands publicly slander the Church from their pulpits, so long as they propagate such vile fictions as the Revelations of Maria Monk, the hoodlums of every Protestant district will occasionally betray that hatred which their betters are polite enough to disguise in the presence of Catholics.

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Clerical News

Very Rev. P. G. Blanche, Provincial of the Eudists, is to be consecrated Bishop on the 28th of this month in the Cathedral of Chicoutimi. Hitherto he has been Prefect Apostolic of the Gulf of the St. Lawrence; henceforth he is Vicar Apostolic with the episcopal character. Most of the priests in his vicariate belong to the Congregation of the Eudists.

We chronicle with keen regret the sudden death of Father J. P. Aylward, pastor of St. Patrick's, Kankakee, Ill., who was at one time a highly valued teacher in St. Boniface College and was, some 17 years ago, accepted for ordination in the Archdiocese of Chicago on the warm recommendation of the authorities of this college. His Grace the Most Rev. J. E. Quigley, Archbishop of Chicago, Right Rev. Bishop Muldoon and more than fifty priests were present at the funeral. Bishop Muldoon sang the Requiem Mass, assisted by Very Rev. M. J. Marsile, C.S.V., President of St. Viator's College. The preacher, Father Murray, pastor of St. Bernard's church, Chicago, praised the late Father Aylward for his skill as a catechist, his earnestness as a preacher and his devotion to the sick and poor. He pointed out the good work done in the short time of his incumbency toward reducing the indebtedness of the church, and ended by pleading for the prayers of all in behalf of the soul of the dear departed.

His Lordship Bishop Pascal returned from St. Paul and went back to Prince Albert on the 22nd inst.

The Tablet says that the Holy Father has sanctioned the holding of a Provincial Council of the Bishops of Lombardy next year. The council will be organized by Cardinal Ferrari, Archbishop of Milan.

While Cardinal Merry del Val was spending his well earned vacation at Castelgandolfo he invited the students of the North American College, then also in vacation at Albano, to a picnic on Monte Cave, and they had a very pleasant outing.

By the death of Mgr. Cotton, Bishop of Valence, the number of vacant French sees is increased to sixteen.

The Rev. Anthony J. Maas, S.J., after completing his 25th year in the Jesuit house of higher studies at Woodstock, Md. has been appointed a member of "The Messenger" staff and hereafter will reside in New York City. He was professor of Sacred Scriptures for fifteen years, during which time he wrote "The Life of Christ," "A Day in the Temple," "Christ in Type and Prophecy," besides writing numerous articles on scriptural subjects for the reviews, especially the Ecclesiastical Review. He will continue his researches and studies in Sacred Scripture while assisting the editors of the "Messenger."

He has been succeeded in Woodstock by the Rev. Timothy J. Brosnahan, S.J., as Prefect of Studies; by the Rev. John Corbett, S.J., as Librarian; by the Rev. George A. Chester, S.J., as Pastor of St. Alphonsus' church, Woodstock.

Father Drummond lectured, on Friday evening, Oct. 20, at Rainy River, Ont., in aid of the new Catholic church now building there. The lecture, which was attended by the best people in the place, was on "Some Irish Orators." Mr. Tibbitt, a leading lawyer, acted as chairman. Mr. Kennedy, member of the local legislature, proposed the vote of thanks. Several Protestant ladies kindly gave vocal and instrumental selections between the two parts of the lecture. Miss Verona Lynch, daughter of the genial proprietor of the Canadian Northern Hotel, who is one of the principal Catholics of Rainy River, sang very nicely. A bazaar, which continued during the week and was largely patronized by Protestants, produced \$763, of which about \$660 will be clear profit. On Sunday Father Meleux, the zealous and hardworking pastor, sang High Mass, at which Father Drummond preached in English and French. Father Drummond also preached at the evening service, first in French, and afterwards in English. He then heard confessions and there was a good number of communions the next morning. Father Meleux hopes that the new church will be opened about Christmas. It will cost \$6,000. The architect is Mr. Cusson, of St.

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Boniface. The great attraction for workmen in this place is the splendid saw mill of the Rainy River Lumber Company, where wages range from two to nine dollars a day. Several of the men there employed are former residents of Manitoba, for instance, Mr. Garret Byrnes and his son and Mr. Charles Desorcy, all hailing from Lorette, Man.

Persons and Facts

John O'Reilly, who emigrated to the United States sixty-five years ago, returned this last summer to visit Goreen, his native place, a little village

near Schull in West Cork. He is 110 years old. He says he has always taken beer and whiskey when he wanted it, has smoked all his life and never made any effort to live long; but he never lost a day's work through drink. Though he hopes to live a good many more years yet, he wants to leave his bones in dear old Ireland.

Next Monday evening the students of St. Boniface College will give a dramatic and musical entertainment of unusual interest. There will be an original French historical drama, entitled "La Capitulation de Levis," reviving the historical characters who won a final victory over those whom diplomacy declared the winners. There

will also be an English drama, the "Hidden Gem," written by Cardinal Wiseman for the golden jubilee of Ushaw College, England, in 1858. No Catholic need be told what a fine play this is. Reserved seats may be secured by telephoning to the College, 606. This will be the first play given in the fine new hall.

The Sisters of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin celebrated the other day the golden jubilee of their settlement in the Brooklyn diocese.

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