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Current Comment

One of our most esteemed correspondents calls attention to the fact that the Calgary Herald's article on "The Manners of Children," which we made the subject of a special editorial last week, was reproduced, with the approval of silence, by the Regina "Leader." This confirms our remark that the Calgary Herald's article attracted widespread notice.

A rather unfortunate misprint, due to the absence of the editor, occurred in the editorial just mentioned. At page 4, column 3, line 22, "connection" should have been "correction." We regret this all the more because we consider that judicious correction, not necessarily bodily, nor even severe verbal correction, but the patient, gentle indication of faults to be corrected, is the most potent instrument of education.

Other less important misprints in last week's issue were: page 1, col. 1, "cannon" instead of "canon" law, and (towards the end of the first paragraph) "steps" instead of "step".

The Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario is being found fault with for calling, in his speech from the throne, the Legislature of his province a "parliament." His words were: "I take great pleasure in meeting you again in parliament assembled." It appears that there is only one parliament in Canada, and that is assembled at Ottawa. The British North America Act calls the Ontario body of lawmakers "the Legislative Assembly." On this principle our local members have no rights to be addressed "M.P.P." (member of provincial parliament), but should be content with the more distinctive, though more modest, "M.L.A." (member of the legislative assembly.)

Pending a fuller and more authoritative report of the Holy Father's latest encyclical, we print here the despatch published by the "Telegram" last Monday morning. It will be seen, even in this meagre summary, that Pius X. brands the separation law as an act of spoliation, and shows that it is a menace to the peace of France.

ROME, Feb. 17.—A papal encyclical was issued to the French episcopacy, clergy and people to-day on the situation of the Church in France, strongly condemning the law providing for the separation of Church and State, and giving advice to Catholics. Several French bishops have arrived to receive verbal instructions for their guidance under the new order of things in France.

The encyclical shows that the Holy See did everything possible to avoid the passage of the law, which it terms a great evil to religion and to France, and outlines the Church's doctrine on the subject of the relations between Church and State, adding that in their union France had found throughout centuries her greatness and glories.

Examining the law in itself, the encyclical says it is offensive and repugnant to the divine constitution of the Church because the public exercise of worship is entrusted to lay associations. The freedom of the Church, it is added, is submitted to the will of public officials who are despoiling her of her patrimony. The law, the document continues, cannot fail to injure the international peace of France, which, especially in the present condition of Europe, is in need of the union of all of her children. It concludes with exhorting the clergy and people to act in concord and with generosity in defence of their religion, and to pray God for the return of tranquility and peace to France.

Writing in the January "Review of Reviews," before the elections had taken place and given the British Liberal party an unprecedented triumph, Mr. W. T. Stead sees in Sir

Henry Campbell-Bannerman's "victory as much a pro-Boer triumph as Mr. Gladstone's triumph in Midlothian in 1880 was the victory of the Bulgarian Atrocity agitation." Alluding to the admission of Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Haldane and Mr. Asquith—men who "apostatized from the true (Liberal) faith during the war in South Africa"—into the cabinet, Mr. Stead says: "The pro-Boer cause has triumphed so completely that even the stoutest pro-Boers feel themselves strong enough to welcome the assistance of the men who in the hour of stress and trial went over to the enemy. We are warranted in assuming that the Liberals who approved the war are now so heartily ashamed of themselves that we do not even need to ask them to wear sackcloth and ashes. That they have accepted office under C.-B.—who coined the famous phrase describing the horrors of the concentration camps and the burning of homesteads as "methods of barbarism," refused to withdraw, despite the execration of the barbarians, the stinging phrase, amplified, justified and repeated it—is sufficient. They are all standing on cutty stools, awaiting the condemnation which the country is about to pronounce upon the supreme Imperial crime of our generation. The only condition that we insist upon is that they shall never, at their peril, venture to say a word in vindication of or even in excuse for their lamentable aberration, and that they shall, to the uttermost of their ability, do what they can to restore the liberty and self-government which they assisted to destroy in the two Republics." Elsewhere in the same article Mr. Stead says: "Everyone now sees that the war was a ghastly blunder and an altogether wanton crime."

As to the prospects of change in the Education Act, Mr. Stead says: "The educational group in the Cabinet is headed by the Minister of Education, Mr. Birrell, who so far as administration is concerned is the darkest of dark horses. He can birrell prettily and wittily on the platform, he wields a graceful pen. But he is apt to lose patience with illogical Nonconformists who cannot be made to see that what they regard as undenominational religion is as much sectarian teaching to the Anglican and the Catholic as the Church Catechism or the Roman creed. Behind Mr. Birrell stands the member for Wales, who is one of the ablest of the younger Ministers," and, we may add, one of the champions of purely secular, compulsory education. "The third educationist in the Cabinet," continues Mr. Stead, "is Mr. Haldane, who is concerned, however, much more with secondary and higher education. He is German in his outlook, and he has his own scheme for settling the Irish University question. Sir Henry Fowler represents the Methodists—more or less imperfectly—while the interests of the Catholics are in the hands of Lord Ripon. The chief difficulty that confronts the educationists is, first, the Catholic vote in the commons, and, secondly, the 'non possumus' of the Peers in the Upper Chamber."

Since Mr. Stead wrote in the beginning of January the Catholics of England are thoroughly aroused. The "Catholic Times" of Feb. 2 and "The Tablet" of Feb. 3 are full of letters on the school question from Catholic clergymen and laymen, all agreeing that there must be no surrender of Catholic rights. One Mr. S. G. Rudler, who describes himself as "a lifelong Liberal and Nonconformist, and as a Passive Resister against the Education Act of 1902," writes to the "Catholic Times":

"I would emphatically say to any Government of my country 'Hands off' to any such attempt at confiscation as you suggest; nor can I think it possible that any of the present

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MRS. F. W. RUSSELL

Mrs. F. W. Russell is at present President of the Altar Society of St. Mary's Church and is prominently connected with all the other movements in which the ladies of the Parish are engaged for the promotion of the



interests of the church or parishioners. She has frequently been instrumental and very successful in raising large sums of money for charitable and church purposes and is an indefatigable worker for every good cause in which she has an interest.

Regina Notes.

Last week the grim reaper claimed as his victim, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Rimmer

"E'er sin threw a blight o'er the spirit's young bloom
Or earth had profaned what was born for the skies."

Bronchitis was the cause of the little one's death. Mr. and Mrs. Rimmer have the sincere sympathy of hosts of friends. The funeral was held from St. Mary's church on Tuesday afternoon. The members of the Altar Society, of which body Mrs. Rimmer is president, attended with a number of friends. Mrs. Keenan sang two hymns very sweetly during the service, the floral tributes laid on the bier by sympathizing friends were very beautiful; among others we noticed sprays of snow white blossoms from Madame Forget, Government House; from Mrs. Coupal, from Mrs. E. McCarthy and from Mrs. Clarke. We join in sympathy:

"Father keep him as I loved him or if changed to other guise
May the heavenly transformation dawn but slowly on my eyes,
Let me take him to my bosom, once upon that shining shore
As I saw him when we parted, in the love-lit days of yore."

Gene Macfarlane.

How She Knew

A young lawyer had become very much attached to a certain young woman, who was somewhat celebrated among her friends for repartee, says Harper's Weekly. The only obstacle in the pathway of the young man was his mental shyness, for while always in command of himself in the court room, he became almost speechless in the presence of his adored one. As one method of showing his devotion it was his custom to shower his inamorata with presents.

The young woman's mother being far from satisfied with the status of the case, broached the subject. "My dear," she said, "you have let Mr. Brown practically monopolize your society for a year, and now have scarcely any other callers. Has he ever given you to understand that his intentions are serious?"

"No, he hasn't said anything, but I know they are."

"How do you know it if he has said nothing?"
The girl smiled.
"Well," she said, "you know he is a lawyer and lawyers always commence a contract with 'Know all men by these presents.'"

Persons and Facts

The opening of the British Parliament last Monday was unwontedly lively. The speech from the Throne, read by His Majesty, foreshadowed legislation of a radical nature. It announced a new constitution for the Transvaal and the granting of autonomy to the Orange River colony. The legislation affecting Ireland, while not definitely outlined, was suggested by His Majesty's words: "My ministers have under consideration plans for improving and effecting economies in the system of government in Ireland and for introducing into it means for associating the Irish people with the conduct of Irish affairs." Mild as is this promise, it excited the ire of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, who was determined to fight any measure looking towards Home Rule. The Nationalists are noncommittal and decline to accept as more than a possibility this seeming step towards autonomy. Mr. John Redmond declared that the Nationalists would not be satisfied with anything short of complete self-government. But some of the less radical Irish members think that the clause in the King's speech means a modified form of home rule and that it ought to be accepted as an instalment. His Majesty announced that the importation of Chinese to the Transvaal shall be stopped and the terms of the Chinese ordinance subjected to revision. Other legislation foreshadowed included bills to amend the Education Act, to deal with trades disputes, to regulate colonial marriages, and to prevent plural voting at parliamentary elections.

The Nestor of the British Cabinet, the Marquis of Ripon, is 78 years old, having been born Oct. 24, 1827. He was member of Parliament from 1852 to 1859, when he succeeded his father, the first Earl of Ripon. He was Secretary of State for War from 1863 to 1866; Secretary of State for India in 1866; Lord President of Council from 1868 to 1873; chairman of joint commission for drawing up the Treaty of Washington in 1871, on which occasion he was created first Marquis of Ripon. He was Grand Master of Freemasons from 1871 to 1874 and resigned that position to become a Catholic in 1874. He was Viceroy of India from 1880 to 1884; First Lord of the Admiralty in 1886, at which time many of his admirers freely prophesied that he would ultimately be Prime Minister; Secretary for the colonies from 1892 to 1895; Mayor of Ripon in 1895 and 1896; and he is now Lord Privy Seal. Ever since his conversion the Marquis of Ripon has been zealous and active in Catholic undertakings, having been for many years President of the St. Vincent de Paul Conferences in England. In 1877 a Canadian priest, stationed for a time at Ripon, wrote: "Lord Ripon, my principal parishioner, is everything that could be desired, humble, pious, full of faith, a lover of the poor, and besides these supernatural virtues, talented, gentlemanly, urbane, with much judgment, tact and common sense." His wife, Lady Ripon, has not yet followed him into the church, nor has his son and heir, Earl de Grey.

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One of the youngest members of the Cabinet, though not so young as the Review of Reviews makes him, is Sir Edward Grey, who is 44, the youngest of all the ministers being Mr. Lloyd-George, who was born in 1863. "Sir Edward Grey," says Mr. W. T. Stead, "is a near relative of the Northumbrian Earl of that name", the present Governor-General of Canada, "whose exceptional intellectual capacity was neutralized by as exceptional an independence of view which made him an impossible colleague."

Although five of the nineteen Cabinet ministers are peers—one marquis, three earls and a baron—none of them represent the very ancient nobility. The Ripon peerage began in 1761; the Carrington in 1796; the Crewe in 1763; the Tweedmouth in 1881. The only one who has some pretensions to antiquity is the 9th Earl of Elgin, whose barony of Bruce dates back to 1603. He was born at Monklands, near the Villa Maria convent, near Montreal, May 16, 1849, while his father was Governor-General of Canada. He is, very appropriately, Secretary for the Colonies.

As to religion the new Cabinet contains six Scotch Presbyterians and six Anglicans. Among the latter Mr. Herbert Gladstone is almost the only one whose churchmanship is more than nominal. Lord Ripon is a Catholic, Mr. Morley and Mr. John Burns are Agnostics, Sir H. H. Fowler is a Wesleyan, Mr. Asquith, Mr. Lloyd-George and Mr. Birrell are nonconformists.

The best ventilated building near or in Winnipeg is the new wing of the St. Boniface Hospital. The worst ventilated is the C.P.R. offices. No person with a weak stomach should enter one of these large and splendidly equipped offices, especially the Land Office, in the afternoon, when the atmosphere is positively sickening. Despite the immense sums spent on the great C.P.R. station and offices no provision has been made for so vital a requisite as the constant renewal of the air. We pity the unfortunate men and women who have to work all day long in such a vitiated atmosphere.

A book agent, who has been selling Catholic Bibles in the city, says he never struck a place where his customers paid up so well. We wonder if he called upon any of those delinquent subscribers who owe us several years of subscription. Justice, like charity, ought to begin at home.

The way the Winnipeg Public School Board turned down Mr. J. T. Gordon's letter last Monday shows that anti-Catholic animus of that precious body. As Mr. J. T. Gordon is a very influential man and sincere in wanting fair play and equal rights for Catholics, this high-handed proceeding of the Board will also show before long what is the real purpose of the compulsory education bill, and this showing will probably kill it. The lukewarmness with which Mr. Sampson Walker replied to the invitation of the School Board to introduce the bill confirms this view. He said to a Tribune reporter (see "Tribune," Feb. 20, p. 11) that he might introduce the bill as a matter of Courtesy, but would hold himself at liberty to oppose the measure if he thought fit. Further developments will be reported next week.

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Rev. Father Arpin, S.J., late of Fort William, Ont., arrived at St. Boniface College on Saturday last, and has entered upon his duties as Bursar of the College. His successor at Fort William is Rev. Father Primeau, S.J.

The senior diocesan priest of this diocese is Rev. F. X. Kavanagh, pastor of St. Francois Xavier, and not Rev. R. Giroux, of St. Anne, as was said by mistake in our last week's issue. Father Kavanagh arrived in the Red River Settlement, now Manitoba, two years before Father R. Giroux.