

A CURIOUS DERIVATION.

Etymology is a growing science. It had long been known that the English word "tawdry" had some connection with St. Etheldreda, the famous Virgin Queen (really so, not called so in derision like the other) who founded the Convent of Ely, of which she died the Abbess in 679. Stormonth (1871) said that "tawdry" was a corruption of "Etheldredae torquem," St. Etheldred's necklace, which was composed of many rows of lace, an ornament much worn by Anglo-Saxon ladies. This lugging in of a Latin word seemed a far-fetched explanation. The "International Dictionary" (1890) has this: "Said to be corrupted from Saint Audrey, or Auldrey, meaning St. Etheldreda, implying therefore, originally, bought at the fair of St. Audrey, where laces and gay toys of all sorts were sold. This fair was held in Isle Ely, and probably at other places, on the day of the saint, which was the 17th of October." The "Standard Dictionary" (1890) calls the word "a corruption of St. Audrey, from the Anglo-Saxon *Aethelthryth*, at whose fair tawdry things were sold," and quotes from Trench's "Words" "Tawdry, an epithet applied once to lace or other finery bought at the fair of St. Awdrey or St. Etheldreda, has run through the same course; it at one time conveyed no suggestion of mean finery or shabby splendor as it now does."

So far etymologists seemed to have got firm hold of the very natural corruption of St. Audrey into "Tawdry," the t of the "Saint" becoming agglutinated to the name, as in "Tantony pig" for St. Anthony's pig. Children in Montreal will often tell you that they live in "Tantoin street," meaning "St. Antoine street." But what connection the "lace or other finery" had with St. Audrey was not yet so clear.

The Rev. A. Smythe Palmer, B. D., vicar of Holy Trinity, South Woodford, England, writes to the "Guardian" a long letter in which he refers for a satisfactory explanation to the Ecclesiastical History of the Venerable Bede (bk. 4, ch. 19, sec. 313), where we are told that St. Etheldreda accepted a very great swelling under her jaw as a punishment for her childish vanity, when she was very young, in being too fond of necklaces; and Nicholas Harpsfield in his "Historia Ecclesiastica Angliana," having briefly told this story, adds: "Our women of England are accustomed to wear on the neck a kind of necklace made of thin and fine silk, which we call 'Etheldreda's (or Awdrey's) necklace,' perhaps in memory of that which I have mentioned." In the great fair which was held at Ely under the shadow of her famous minister, on October 17, "St. Aw-

drey's laces" were common on every stall. But the popular form of the phrase was "tawdry lace," as when we read in Spenser's Shepheard's Calendar:

Gird in your waist
For more fineness with a tawdry lace.

Drayton says the Nereids "make them tawdries for their necks" "(Polyolbion, ii.), and explains it as "a kind of necklace worn by country wenches." The final step by which the word was applied to any cheap and flashy finery easily followed.

SOME FACTORS IN THE RESULT.

Winnipeg Tribune, Dec 9.

Whilst the returns are not by any means complete, enough is known to make it clear that the Greenway government has received what its ill-starred city organ in the campaign describes as a severe "black eye." It is almost impossible that the smallest practical working majority is left to it, and it is almost as certain that it will have to meet the new legislature with an actual minority at its back. How are the mighty fallen! Four years ago this government was returned with an almost unanimous legislature to support it. This, possibly, may have been the first cause of the downward movement which has lauded the government where it is to-day. Success is apt to engender overconfidence. Shortly after its last endorsement by the people, the Greenway government, at the instance of the then Attorney-General, now Minister of the Interior, launched out on a regrettably wrong and suicidal policy in regard to railway matters. Whilst this policy has been the determining factor in the present situation, there have been a number of other causes not the least of which, we dare to believe, is an increased intelligence and political capacity on the part of the electorate, who have for some time been giving a good deal of independent individual study to the merits of the questions which bear so directly on their interests. A wholesome indication of the trend of the popular political feeling is the mingled contempt and disgust with which the people reviewed the "campaign" of the mercenary newspaper organ which the Canadian Pacific corporation owns and uses as a bludgeon wherewith to cudgel refractory politicians, and to encourage those whom it thinks will serve its ends. Mr. Greenway was sufficiently ill-advised to permit himself to be "supported" by this journalist Jonah, doubtless thinking himself strong enough to survive even that. The result demonstrates the inaccuracy of his diagnosis. Is it not about time that the politicians should recognize what the people themselves have realized long ago? That is, that a publication purporting to be a newspaper maintained by a corporation (which exacts from the people themselves the money to maintain it), but which prostitutes every function of a newspaper properly so called, violates every precept of public morality and transgresses every canon of decency in the interests of its owners, is not only a public enemy and a menace to free institutions, but when its character and objects are discerned by the public, a disastrous and boomerang ally to the politicians themselves who accept such support and are so lacking in insight as to perceive its worthlessness. Fortunately for the public interest the campaign of the corporation organ has been characterized by a truculent and aggressive imbecility and moral turpitude

so far in excess of its normal mild idiocy and trivial dishonesty, that it has amazed those even who have had the most unbounded faith in its capacity as a boomerang. When Mr. Greenway tolerated the support of the C. P. R. Co.'s local news bureau, he can hardly be surprised at the effect on intelligent public opinion.

Mr. Greenway was unable to survive the violent support of the Free Press.

Our prediction has been verified; the weight of the "Free" Press has swamped the government.

We told you so, no government could possibly stand up against the "support" of the Free Press.

The support of the C. P. R. organ is a load for any government to carry. And the load becomes heavier when the organ is conducted as it has been during the present campaign.

As we pointed out some days ago the only marked evidence there was that the C. P. R. was partial to the government, was the fact that its newspaper was violently supporting it.

THE MISSING STAR SHOWER

The Tablet.

The failure of the Leonid meteors to keep their tryst this year was not altogether unexpected by astronomers. Dr. Johnstone Storey, the leading authority in this country on the path of the wanderers, threw some doubt on their re-appearance in letters published in the papers some days before they were due. He conjectured that the perturbing influence of Saturn might possibly have so deflected their course as to escape that intersection of the earth's orbit to which their periodical return has been due. Even where the sky was clear nothing like the anticipated display was visible, and a few score only were seen instead of the rain of stars that was expected to seam the heavens with fire. In London a pall of fog or cloud enshrouding the sky at the critical hours would have rendered the look-out for them hopeless in any case, but to the many people who travelled to distant places on the chance of a view of them, their scanty numbers must have been a serious disappointment. One gentleman had taken his whole family to Constantinople that they might enjoy the spectacle he had witnessed there in 1866, when they flashed across the eastern sky in a jewelled rain, showing all the colours of the spectrum. Dr. Weiss, director of the Vienna observatory, was deputed by the Vienna Academy of Science to Delhi with several assistants to observe the expected Leonids, and telegraphed on the 17th that they had not yet appeared. Vienna seems to have been especially interested in them, for the observatory also sent a party to spend two or three nights on the top of the Sonnwendstein, whether they were accompanied by about 100 amateurs including several ladies, while thousands of the Viennese camped out for three nights on the Kahlenberg in the hope of witnessing the phenomenon. To these latter the weather was wholly unpropitious, and to those on the Sonnwendstein partially so, and both parties were driven back to Vienna by a heavy snowfall, which set in over, not only the mountains, but the whole of Lower Austria.

Winnipeg civic elections take place to-day.

NOTES FROM STE. ROSE

Ste. Rose, Nov. 25.—We travel no more, like the Israelites of old, led on by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, for the autumn rains have quenched the prairie fires, so widespread and disastrous in the desolation they bring.

Now we have come to the feast of St. Catherine, patron saint of old maids and philosophers, and indeed old maids had need to be themselves philosophers—it is not all "cakes and ale" braiding St. Catherine's tresses, as Longfellow prettily puts it. "Did ever a St. Catherine's smile with better grace, with sweeter favor, lighting up the dark days of November? All is so still, so repositful, we almost cease to hear the "busy beat of time" as the days go by. But we hear instead, a tinkle of wedding bells in the tranquil air. Four marriages, no less in this one week; it is not hard to find the reason why—the angels are bearing St. Catherine overhead and young maidens must not tarry, for they know their fate if they should do so.

On this same day our good and dear old friend, Mr. Benjamin Neault, departed this life, leaving a void which can never be filled; he passed peacefully away, fortified by the rites of Holy Church and surrounded by his weeping family, having led a good and Christian life, and brought up his children in the love and fear of God.

Mr. Neault, one of the pioneers of Ste. Rose, was of pure Canadian descent, being grandson of Mme. Lagimodiere, the first white woman who came to dwell in the Northwest. Seven sons and four daughters were grouped around him here, not to speak of his other children. He was 68 years of age and would have celebrated his golden wedding had he lived two years longer. Ste. Rose never before had seen so grand a funeral; every family in the neighborhood was represented, testifying to the great respect in which Mr. Neault was held, our fine new church being filled as on Sundays, the church which he and his sons had helped to raise. R. I. P.

The well known Episcopal minister, Dr De Costa, of New York, who recently resigned his charge into the hands of the Episcopal Bishop Potter, was formally received into the Catholic Church on the 3rd inst. He refused to be interviewed, but is preparing for publication a full statement of the reasons for his conversion.

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For Small Boys.

The Sisters of Charity of St. Boniface, yielding to repeated requests from various quarters, have determined to undertake the management of a boarding-house for boys between the ages of six and twelve. Special halls will be set apart for them, where, under the care and supervision of the Grey Nuns, they will be prepared for their First Communion, while attending either the Preparatory Department of St. Boniface College or the classes of Provencher Academy. This establishment will be known as "Le Jardin de l'Enfance" (Kindergarten). The results already attained in similar institutions of the Order give every reason to hope that this arrangement will fill a long felt want. Board and lodging will cost six dollars a month. For the boys who attend Provencher Academy there will be an additional charge of fifty cents a month; and for those who take music lessons, \$3 a month. Bedding, mending and washing will be extra. The Sisters are willing to attend to these extras on terms to be arranged with them. The boys who attend the Preparatory Department of St. Boniface College will have to pay the tuition fees of the College. Applications should be made to THE SISTER SUPERIOR, GREY NUNS' QUARTER HOUSE, ST. BONIFACE.

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