

Northwest Review

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED WEEKLY.
WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
AUTHORITY
AT WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

REV. A. A. CHERRIER,

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

Subscription per annum \$2.00 a year
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SATURDAY, SEPT. 3, 1904.

Calendar for Next Week.

SEPTEMBER.

- 4—Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost.
- 5—Monday—St. Lawrence Gjustini, Bishop, Confessor.
- 6—Tuesday—St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Doctor (transferred from the 28th ult.).
- 7—Wednesday—Votive Office of St. Joseph.
- 8—Thursday—The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin.
- 9—Friday—St. Gorgonius, Martyr.
- 10—Saturday—St. Nicholas of Tolentino, Confessor.

CURED OF HIP DISEASE AT ST. ANNE.

Special to the Montreal Star.

Preston, Ont., July 30.—C. J. Frank, a coal and wood dealer, of Preston, and his four and a half year old son have returned from Ste. Anne de Beaupre, Quebec, and report that as a result of his visit to the famous shrine, the son has been cured of hip disease from which the little fellow had been a great sufferer. Previous to going to Ste. Anne Mr. Frank says the boy could not bend his leg. This he is now able to do, and he can also use the leg a little in walking.

ASPIRES TO BE PAPAL CHAMPION.

Berlin, August 5.—According to information received by the Daily Star correspondent at the headquarters of the German Roman Catholic party, the Fatherland is already moving to acquire the position of the leading Roman Catholic power. The breach between the Vatican and the French Government has made this possible. The Kaiser is directing his diplomacy to the acquisition of the heritage of the eldest daughter of the church, the universal protection of Catholic interests, "in partibus infidelium." It is stated that it has already been settled that Germany shall be given the much desired protectorship over the Levant and other spheres of Teutonic influence in the near and far east.

The Vatican is confronted with the necessity of distributing the protectorship rights among the several children of the Church. Austria, in particular, is making strong pretensions.

German Catholics are overjoyed with the prospect that their party's position of political predominance in Germany will be assured forever, should the Kaiser succeed in obtaining the place about to be evacuated by the French.

Despatches from Rome state that the Kaiser's effusive congratulation of Pius X. on the first anniversary of his accession to the throne of St. Peter yesterday moved His Holiness to tears. There is little doubt that William intended his felicitations should be in strong contrast to the silence of President Loubet, and should at this crucial moment turn the balance in favour of Germany's political aspirations. —Montreal Star.

A MOST INTERESTING LETTER WRITTEN BY MGR. TACHE MORE THAN 45 YEARS AGO

An Extract from the Report on the Exploration of the Country between Lake Superior and the Red River Settlement, and between the latter place and the Assiniboine and Saskatchewan, by S. J. Dawson, Esquire, C.E.

Printed by order of the Legislative Assembly, Toronto.

Folio 42.—Letter from the Bishop of St. Boniface, Red River Settlement.

The following communication has just been received from the Right Reverend the Bishop of St. Boniface, in the Colony of Assiniboia. His Lordship, it will be observed, gives a very interesting account of the educational and religious establishments in his diocese and of the gradual advancement of the half breed Indians in civilization and refinement. The absence of great crimes among them, and the facility with which little differences are arranged speak volumes in favor of those who, regardless of personal considerations, devote their lives to their moral training and instruction. Bishop Tache has been in the country for fourteen years, and has travelled far and wide among the native tribes, and in the exercise of the duties of his high office must have had the best opportunities of observing their habits and character. His remarks are therefore of the greatest value and will, I am confident, be read with deep interest:

Red River, Feb. 7th, 1859.

Dear Sir,—I have just received your pleasing letter of 29th December last. Not only the excellent report which you are preparing of the soil, climate, and other matters relating to the physical and geographical character of the vast country explored by you will, I am sure, be hailed with pleasure in Canada, where a strong desire prevails of obtaining information on the subject; but anything which is calculated to throw new light on, and add to the knowledge which is now so much in request, will find ready acceptance there. I have, therefore, much satisfaction in contributing the information which you request of me. I regret only that the shortness of the time will not allow me to make that information as complete as might be necessary to give an exact idea of what is passing here, even to persons who have some slight knowledge of the country. The efforts made by the Catholic clergy to extend the empire of Jesus Christ over my immense diocese, have two distinct and very different fields, which may be thus defined:

1. The ministrations afforded to the Catholic population of Red River and the neighborhood, in which, excepting some slight difference, our functions resemble those of the priests in new parishes in Lower Canada.

2. The care of the missions in the interior of the country, which are altogether heathen missions, entitled to particular attention, in order to their being perfectly understood, and yielding to the evangelical husbandman a rich harvest of merits and a glory which the world does not sufficiently regard, simply because the Kingdom of Jesus Christ is not of this world. To this division I shall attach myself in the details which it is my intention to supply.

1. Aids afforded to the Catholics of Red River, and reflexions concerning them.

The Catholic population of Red River is distributed into what we conventionally term parishes. These are four in number: 1, St. Boniface; 2, St. Norbert (on the banks of the Red River); 3, St. Francis Xavier; 4, St. Charles (on the banks of the Assiniboine). The boundaries of these parishes, as shown in the map accompanying the report of Professor Hind, are tolerably exact.

St. Boniface:—Here was the first resting place of the earliest missionaries who visited the Hudson's

Bay Territory after the Conquest of Canada by the English. At the request, and with the aid of Lord Selkirk, Messrs. J. N. Provencher and T. J. N. Dumoulin landed at Fort Douglas on the 16th July, 1818, and commenced their labor of self-devotion and self-sacrifice, bestowing their first care on a few old Canadian voyageurs and their families, half breeds, who were still unconverted. In 1820 was laid the foundation of the first religious edifice. This poor chapel, which was of wood, and was, nevertheless, destined afterwards to serve as a cathedral, was consecrated to religious worship under the patronage of St. Boniface. The parish to which it belongs has now a population of 1,400 souls. It is here that I perform the duty of a Cure, being assisted in it by the Rev. P. Lefloch. Two other missionaries, the Rev. Messrs. Mestre and Moulter, who arrived last summer, are passing the winter with us, awaiting the opening of the spring to be able to proceed to one of the posts, to which they are summoned by their pious zeal. The Church of St. Boniface, my cathedral, is certainly not externally a monument of elegance, as you may have observed, but it is nevertheless indisputably the finest building in the country. It is 100 feet in length, 45 in breadth, and 40 in height. Its two towers, surmounted by bellies covered with tin, display the emblem of our redemption on their airy summits at a height of 100 feet from the ground. A fine and well matched peal of three bells (weighing upwards of 1,600 pounds) adds to the joyous zest and the pomp attendant on our religious fetes. The internal decorations of this church are a subject of surprise to strangers traversing the wilderness, who are far from expecting to find here so much of art and good taste. In rear of the cathedral and overshadowed by its walls is the dwelling of the Bishop. This is a large house, in which the prelate is happy in being able to share with his clergy, the Christian Brothers who teach in his schools, and some orphans, the small portion of his revenue which is not employed in other good works. The parish of St. Boniface has the advantage of possessing excellent schools. Until May last, the boys' school, taught by the Brothers of the Christian Doctrine, was kept in the bishop's house; but since that time the Brothers and their pupils have taken possession of a large house built for them, a few hundred feet from the cathedral. Here I cannot refrain from expressing the feeling of gratitude which warms my heart at the sight of that house. In 1852 a terrible fire destroyed a considerable portion of the city of Montreal. Scarcely had the fiery and destructive blast passed away when the soft and refreshing breath of charity stirred the still moving ashes, and wafted to the Red River a lesson too advantageous to its friends to be lightly forgotten. The faithful of Montreal at the instance of their chief pastor, in order to appease by their good works the anger of Heaven, shown by so terrible an infliction, desirous moreover of fulfilling the conditions imposed by the Sovereign Pontiff to entitle them to the indulgences of the Jubilee, made a collection for the benefit of the Red River, which produced the sum of £364. This was to be expended in the foundation of a school. To this liberal act of charity we are indebted for the means of erecting the beautiful

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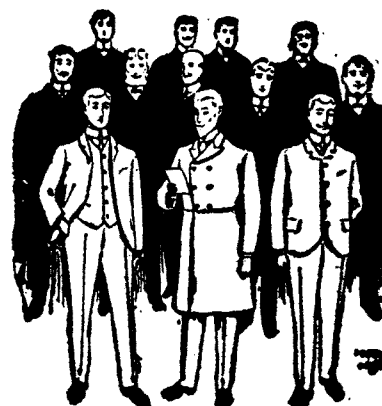
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SUNDAYS—Low Mass, with short instruction, 8.30 a.m.
High Mass, with sermon, 10.30 a.m.
Vespers, with an occasional sermon, 7.15 p.m.

Catechism in the Church, 3 p.m.

N.B.—Sermon in French on first Sunday in the month, 9 a.m. Meeting of the children of Mary 2nd and 4th Sunday in the month, 4 p.m.

WEEK DAYS—Masses at 7 and 7.30 a.m. On first Friday in the month, Mass at 8 a.m. Benediction at 7.30 p.m.

N.B.—Confessions are heard on Saturdays from 3 to 10 p.m., and every day in the morning before Mass.

C. M. B. A.

Grand Deputy for Manitoba.
Rev. A. A. Cherrier, Winnipeg, Man.

Agent of the C.M.B.A. for the Province of Manitoba with power of attorney, Dr. J. K. Barrett, Winnipeg, Man.

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