

**NORTHWEST REVIEW**

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At St. Boniface, Man.

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Editor-in-Chief.

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**Northwest Review.**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1898.

**CURRENT COMMENT.**

The letter we publish this week, with the kind permission of the Rev. Sister Superior of St. Boniface Hospital, from Dr. W. T. Barrett, of Dawson City, will, we feel, sure, be read with special interest. When the stalwart Doctor was house-surgeon at St. Boniface Hospital he endeared himself to a host of friends, and when, shortly after his departure for the Klondyke, reports were circulated of his death, all who knew him were deeply grieved. His letter shows that there was great cause for anxiety, spinal meningitis being a generally fatal disease. It is characteristic of the writer's buoyant energy that, though the shadow of death had but lately fallen athwart his path, the tone of his letter is so cheerful. Being a Catholic, he notes what almost all the other published letters from Dawson studiously ignore, the good work done by Father Judge and his hospital.

A third local book agent is booming Blackie's Modern Cyclopaedia. There may be some doubts as to the Catholicity of the Encyclopedic Dictionary, but there can be no doubt as to the aggressive Protestantism of this cyclopaedia. The article on "Jesuits," a test article in all cyclopedias, settles that point. Such works deserve no commendation at all unless the articles on Catholic subjects have been revised by some competent Catholic authority, and even then there is no guarantee that the historical falsehoods avoided in the Catholic subjects may not reappear under other headings. The fact of the matter is that it is high time we should have a good Catholic cyclopaedia like those which are to be found in France, Italy and Spain. The Catholic Dictionary is pretty good as far it goes, but it necessarily confines itself to distinctly Catholic subjects. What we want is a repertory of general information in which natural science, philosophy, history, art and above all theology will be viewed from the only true standpoint, the

Catholic one. That the so-called Reformation or the French Revolution emancipated the human mind is a monumental lie writ large across all non-Catholic cyclopedias, and we want that lie to be promptly throttled whenever and wherever it protrudes its ghastly head.

A look agent from St. Paul called upon us the other day with specimen pages of what purported to be a brand-new encyclopedia. He laid particular stress on the up-to-dateness of such articles as "appendicitis." The four volumes bore the title "Universal Cyclopaedia" and the publisher's name was Peter Fenelon Collier. Next day another agent, from Chicago this time, was soliciting orders for the "Encyclopedic Dictionary" published by some other firm. A cursory examination was sufficient to show that the two works are merely one and the same revamped edition of an English publication to which Huxley was one of the principal contributors. P. F. Collier has changed the name; that is all. The Chicago agent, who offers the work cheaper than his St. Paul competitor, says there has been no literary piracy in the matter, but that there were two sets of English plates sold to two different American firms after the printing of the Encyclopedic Dictionary had ceased in England.

**LETTER FROM DR. W. T. BARRETT,**

LATE HOUSE-SURGEON OF ST. BONIFACE HOSPITAL AND NOW GOVERNMENT PHYSICIAN AT DAWSON CITY, TO THE

REV. SISTER SUPERIOR OF ST. BONIFACE HOSPITAL.

Dawson, Yukon Dist.  
N. W. T., June 24th.

Dear Sister Superior:

I have often thought of writing to the St. Boniface Hospital since I left, but thought I would wait until I arrived at my destination, and had something definite in view regarding my future life in this country; so have postponed until the present.

Before beginning to relate any of my experiences I sincerely hope and pray that all the sisters and that all those connected with your hospital when I left are still enjoying happiness and good health.

I have heard very little of Winnipeg since I left there; occasionally I see a paper, but as a rule they contain nothing interesting.

My experiences have been wonderful—the change was so great that I have simply been living in a new world. The terrors of an Alaskan climate have been greatly over-drawn, it being possibly the mildest winter I ever passed. I have lived in a tent since Feby. 13th and at no time have I suffered from cold while there. On a few occasions while crossing the summits of mountains the weather was cold, but no worse than you experience in Winnipeg.

The diet was somewhat monotonous: pork, beans and evaporated potatoes being the staple articles. Bannock and pancakes always occupied a place on the

camp table. We had other articles on our bill of fare which always had a pleasant greeting, such as dried apples, prunes, peaches etc. I had a severe sickness during March which brought me to the border of death. Spinal meningitis was the disease. It caused the death of dozens of those on the trail about Skagway and Dyea. Very few recovered, when once down. I had the best of attention by those doctors who were near at hand and surely must have had the prayers of my friends for at one stage the doctors gave up hope of my recovery and told my friends in camp that I could not live more than two hours. I did not suffer much as I was unconscious of everything for a day or so. I made a rapid recovery, so much so that in ten days I was able to travel on with the next party on a dog sleigh for twenty miles to the next camp. We camped at Lake Tagish for five weeks while the men were building boats. I did considerable work there securing practically all the government as well as the public practice.

The trip down the river for over 500 miles in an open boat was truly grand. In some places where the view was not obstructed, hundreds of boats could be counted all floating down with the current at a rate of about 100 miles per day. The dangerous places in the river which we had to avoid by hard work and good judgement added spice to the trip. The many rapids, shoals and rocks were man-traps and many lives and cargoes were lost while hundreds looked on from the shore unable to render any assistance.

Three lives were lost in the White Horse Rapids on the day we passed through.

We all arrived here safely on June 13th and found a population of many thousands chiefly in tents surrounded by the worst sanitary conditions possible.

I secured an office for \$150 per month, but it will not be completed for a few days yet. The hospital has 68 patients. Father Judge, a Jesuit priest, is in charge. The sisters have not yet arrived, but they are expected daily. The hospital is doing good work for all classes. Scurvy seems to be the chief disease, but undoubtedly now that the population is large every disease will be prevalent. Doctors are numerous, qualified and otherwise. At present there are about 150 doctors in the district, but very few are practising their profession. American physicians are still allowed to practise, but an order will be issued in a day or so limiting practise to qualified licensed physicians. I will likely get on the hospital staff as I have received a promise to that effect and expect to have it fulfilled when I begin practice. The hospital doctors are the only ones making money in this country and their incomes will be reduced by such an influx of physicians.

The chapel was burned with all its contents a few days before we arrived. It was a sad loss to Father Judge who has worked so hard here. I attended Mass in a new wing of the hospital on Sunday last, and was agreeably surprised to see such a large congregation: over 100 were present while dozens could not gain admittance owing to

the size of the room. There are several splendid voices in the choir, but they have no organ. A new church is under construction.

The price of everything is high. Meals \$2.50 up. Eggs at present are \$2.50 per doz., but were \$18.00 three weeks ago. Potatoes \$1.00 per lb. Moose meat \$2.00 per lb. No beef on the market yet.

Oranges \$6. per doz. Bananas \$12. per doz. Bread 50cts. for 1lb loaf. Everything is from 4 to 6 times as high as in Winnipeg, depending on the article and the scarcity of the same. All these high prices will come down during the summer as large cargoes of goods of all descriptions are arriving daily.

Laboring men at present get \$10 per day. Mechanics \$15 to \$20. Work is scarce and many people will have to leave before winter or depend on charity.

I left as you know with only enough clothing to carry me here. I thought linen collars etc., would not be worn, but I find people dress as well here as in Winnipeg; so I will ask Mr. Spencer to open my trunk and take out the following articles which I wish you would have enclosed in oil cloth and sewn in canvass expressed (collect) to

C. E. KELLY ESQ.  
(FOR DR. W. T. BARRETT)  
(DAWSON YUKON)

HENDERSON BROS.  
WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS  
VICTORIA  
B. C.

Please forward.

[Here follows list of clothing]  
This will give you a lot of trouble—but I am already indebted to you for so much kindness, which I hope some day to be able to repay you partly with Yukon gold, that I thought I could venture to ask from you this favor.

Kindly have Mr Spencer express the parcel to above address as soon as possible after you receive this letter, as Mr. Kelly will only spend a week in Victoria before returning here.

Please give my kind regards to all the nurses and sisters, to Mollie and Dick Spencer and to the visiting doctors.

Thanking you as Sister Superior and all the other Sisters for post kindnesses,

I remain

Yours very faithfully,  
W. T. Barrett.

P. S. If you cannot get all the articles in one parcel you can put them in two. Do not pay the express as Mr Kelly will pay it  
W. T. B.

**THE LATE FATHER  
DOUGALD CAMERON.**

We learn with deep regret that Father Dougald Cameron, who had spent eight years in Manitoba and Assiniboia, died on July 14th, as parish priest of Georgeville and Maryvale in his native diocese of Antigonish. The "Casket" of the 21st ult. has a beautiful obituary notice of the dear departed priest, from which we freely borrow the following facts, supplementing them with some items that have come to our knowledge otherwise.

Dougald Cameron was born at South River, in the county

of Antigonish, N. S., on January 30, 1854. He was a son of the late Allan Cameron (brother of his Lordship Bishop Cameron of Antigonish), and his wife Catherine (née McGillivray) and was among the younger of their seventeen children, of whom fifteen grew up. His exemplary Christian father he lost in his seventh year; but he was blessed with a good, pious mother, who brought up her children in the fear and love of God, and whose training is manifest in their lives and in the fact that three of her sons became priests and two of her daughters nuns.

After completing his studies in Arts at St. Francis Xavier's College, he taught school for a number of years, and in 1882 went to Manitoba, where he first worked in a printing office and afterwards, feeling a call to the special service of God, took a position on the staff of St. Boniface College, and began his studies for the priesthood in that institution. He was ordained by the late Archbishop Taché on SS. Peter and Paul's Day, 1888, and sent to labor among the Scotch crofters settled in Assiniboia, for whose especial benefit he and Father Gillis, of Wapella, had jointly issued a catechism in Gaelic.

The arduousness of his labors in this rugged field soon impaired his health, and after some months in the hospital at St. Boniface he returned to his native diocese, where he was appointed to the missions of Georgeville and Maryvale in September, 1890. His quiet, effective work for religion in those places is known to God, and in some measure to those under his care. His people loved him with an uncommon degree of love, which was not won by any toleration of evil on his part. His love for them was evidenced in the fact that after receiving notice of his appointment to the parish of Glace Bay, of which he was destined never to take charge, he could not trust his feeling to announce the fact to his congregation, but got a brother priest to break the news to them. And instead of wishing to lie in death by the side of those to whom he was bound by the ties of nature, he chose rather to repose among his former children in Christ, in the little churchyard at Maryvale, which was not even his place of residence.

His body lay in the College Chapel from Thursday till Friday evening, when it was removed to the Cathedral, where on Saturday morning at nine o'clock High Mass of Requiem was celebrated by his Lordship the Bishop, assisted by Rev. C. F. McKinnon, P. P., Sydney Mines, and Rev. Dougald Gillis, of the College staff. A brief but touching and impressive eulogy upon the departed priest was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Thompson, who took for his text the appropriate words of Ecclesiasticus: "Beloved of God and men, whose memory is in benediction; He made him like unto the saints in glory."

A procession of carriages which must have been considerably over a mile in length, followed the remains of the good priest to Maryvale, where the little church he loved so much, draped in mourning by loving hands, received him for the last time. After service there and at