

FATHER PERRY, S. J.

One of the Latest Martyrs of Science

Meeting a Heroic Death—Edifying Details of His Untimely Passing Away From Earth.

The Society of Jesus has given great names to all departments of science; but it is notable, as Aloysius L. Cortier in his sketch of Father Stephen Joseph Perry, in the March London Month, points out that its pre-eminent scientific distinction has been won in astronomy. Before the suppression of the Society, in 1773, we find the names of Clavius, Scheiner, Riccioli, Grimaldi, Mayer, Hell, Boscovich, Sabhal and Verbiest; and the foundation, by Jesuits, of the observatories of Vienna, Mannheim, Tyranau, Prague, Graz, Wilna, Milan, Florence, Parma, Venice, Brescia, Rome, Palermo, Lisbon, Marcelline, Avignon, Lyons and Pekin. After the restoration of their society the Jesuits located the existing observatories of Rome, Lorraine, Kalocsa, Zikva-wei, Manila, Cuba, Antanarifve, Puebla, Calcutta, Stonyhurst, in England, and Georgetown, at Washington, D. C., in the United States. Among the astronomers whom they have given to the nineteenth century are the Italian, De Vico and Secchi; the Englishman, Father Perry, with whose last scientific expedition we are concerned here; and, it may be said to add, the Irish-American, Father James Carley, who died a few months ago at Georgetown.

FATHER PERRY'S EARLY CAREER. Stephen Joseph Perry was born in London in 1833; studied for the priesthood at Donay College and at the English College, Rome; but, at about twenty years of age, feeling a strong desire to be religious as well as a priest, returned to England and entered the Society of Jesus at Stonyhurst. Early in his scholastic life the scientific bent of young Perry's mind was so strongly manifested that his superiors determined to allow him to give himself wholly to science. He attended the lectures of De Morgan, in London, in 1853, and those of Bertrand, Liouville, and Lary, in Paris, in 1859, and at the London Mathematical Exhibition took the sixth place in the mathematical list. In 1860 he was placed in charge of the observatory at Stonyhurst.

THE YOUNG SCIENTIST BECOMES A JEMITE PRIEST. This scientific career was interrupted from 1863 to 1866 for his special studies for the priesthood, to which he was ordained September 23d of the latter year; and for the year of probation, previous to his solemn vows as a Jesuit, which he made in 1871. With these exceptions, his life was given to astronomy. Stonyhurst was his home, whence he went on his various scientific expeditions and whither he returned always victorious; except from the last and most successful of all, which gave him his grave in far-away Demerara.

HIS SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS. Among the expeditions which he headed for the English Government was the transit of Venus expeditions in 1874 and 1882, and that of Curiaous for the total eclipse of the sun in 1886. The last one was to the Iles de Salut, near Cayenne, to observe the solar eclipse of December 22d, 1889.

THE FATAL VOYAGE. Father Perry and his companion, Brother Rooney, sailed from Southampton, England, November 14th, on the R. M. Steamship Tagna. Changing, after a brief rest, at Barbados, for the man-of-war Comus, Capt. In Atkinson commanding, they reached their destination December 7th. It would be hard to find an unhealthier spot than one of these malaria-infested Iles de Salut. The sanitary arrangements were the worst possible, and the effluvia almost unbearable to new-comers. There were other disadvantages, such as the total of the horrible environment in which Father Perry rendered his last services to science at the best of his life, may be best gathered from a letter of his, appended to his sister, a nun of Notre Dame in England:

"At present I am living partly on board and partly at the Military Hospital. I have had a slight fever, and am taking quinine and sulphur baths; but I hope to be quite well for the work next week. On Sunday, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, I preached the Catholic convict. A convict serves Mass each morning at 6 A.M., and all our surroundings are convicts and warders. Every evening the Arabs may be seen in every part of the island prostrating in worship, but I have not as yet learned where the Chinamen pray. The vice in the islands is fearful. Dogs are everywhere, and revolvers in the hands of all the warders. Two convicts were executed last week, and two or three others are already sentenced. This morning one poor fellow, who had died in the hospital, was given to the sharks, which swim in these waters. Our station consists of three islands—Royal Island, on which are the worst criminals; St. Joseph's, where the prisoners are condemned for life, not to perpetual hard labor; and The Devil, where the poor lepers are kept. Food is sent to these twice a week, and the doctors visit them occasionally. They are all in the last stage of misery, and I see them crawling about as best as they can. The captain, officers and men of H.M.S. Comus are all kindnes, and the officials on shore are doing everything possible for us. The French Government sent orders that we were to be treated with all kindness, and the Governor of Cayenne has sent the most pressing invitations to Captain Atkinson and myself. Ask the good nuns to pray for your affectionate brother,

S. J. PERRY.

ILL, BUT YET AT WORK.

Had he slept on board the Comus, as Captain Atkinson had desired, he would have been better able to resist the dangers of daytime sojourn on the island, and his precious life might have been spared. But his fear of giving trouble to others, and his anxiety for the success of the expedition, kept him day and night on the island.

The observatory was approached from the hospital by a steep ascent of half a mile over very rough ground, and this was traversed back and forth on foot four times every day. General rehearsals for the supreme moment of observation took place from December 16 till December 31, inclusive, Father Perry, of course, directing all, and giving, besides, a lecture on board the Comus by way of further useful instruction to those who were to assist at the instruments. There were four assistants at each instrument—three officers to take down the times given by the observers, and one first-class pilot officer to hand plates, etc.

On December 18 rain began falling heavily, drawing up sickening effluvia from the soil. On the night of the 20th the sky cleared, and Father Perry spent the night in the observa-

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tory, taking trial photographs. Towards morning, he slept a little in a hammock, fearing to lose time if he returned for his rest to the hospital, as he wanted to sight the sun at midday. Here he died. It was a death which, nevertheless, he carried out all his plans and conducted the final rehearsal.

HIS LAST ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATION. On the morning of the eclipse he was so ill that he had to ask Lieutenant Thierens for a man to help him back and forth from the observatory. Let the correspondent of the Manchester Guardian continue:

"The sun rose in a clear sky, but at seven o'clock all looked very black, and at 7.20 a heavy shower of rain fell for about three or four minutes. After this the sky began to brighten up. At this time Father Perry arrived at the observatory, looking very unwell and leaning on the blue-jacket. As soon as he entered the camp he asked Mr. Rooney if all was ready, and, having been told that all was quite ready, he walked round to see that every man was at his post. The sky was now much brighter, with a large patch of blue near the sun. A few minutes later the sun appeared, it being then a little more than half eclipsed, and about seven or eight minutes before totality commenced. The sun was well out into the blue sky, and as soon as totality commenced the signal was given, and the plates were all successfully exposed according to the programme drawn up by the Solar Eclipse Committee of the Royal Astronomical Society. Captain Atkinson, of the Comus, also observed with a smaller telescope. The corona stood out magnificently, and was very much like the American one of January, 1889.

"Totally lasted one hundred and twenty-nine seconds. When the observations were finished, Father Perry walked over to Mr. Rooney, and asked if all had gone right at his instruments, and on being told that everything was most satisfactory, he remarked, 'This is the most successful observation of the kind that I have ever had anything to do with.' He then asked Captain Atkinson to get three others for the successful observation, and three hearty cheers were given. He said, 'I cannot cheer,' but he waved his helmet."

THE GREAT ASTRONOMER'S LAST DAYS ON EARTH.

He was taken back to the hospital and failed so fast that the last Sacraments were administered. Then came a transient rallying, during which he was got on board the Comus, for Demerara. The improvement continued, and his devoted companion, Brother Rooney, and his associates in the expedition, became hopeful. But the respite was brief. We wish we could quote for our readers all of Brother Rooney's touching record of these last days. Christmas night the fatal change came. Brother Rooney entered the dying man's cabin shortly after midnight. The dying man sat up and tried to write the telegram for Greenwich, giving the result of the expedition. But he could not form the letters. Then he dictated it to his faithful companion, and bade him send it off as soon as they reached Demerara. His mind wandered now and then, and thinking himself at the supreme moment of the scientific mission, with which he had been charged, he gave orders, etc., as during the eclipse.

Early in the afternoon, all hope being gone, Brother Rooney told him he was dying. He received the word with perfect calmness and self-possession, and bade the Brother recite the prayers for the departing soul. He then renewed his vows, and expressed his happiness to die a professed member of the Society of Jesus.

THE DEATH-BED SCENE. Dr. MacSweeney, a Catholic, by the way, was trying to prolong his patient's life by injections into the arm, as it had been said were he die on the passage he would have to be buried at sea. Writes Brother Rooney:

"The doctor prepared to repeat the injection, but he noticed it, and said, 'No; no more injections,' let me die making acts of love of God.' I put the crucifix in his hands again, and he asked me (it was now about 3 P. M.) to repeat the prayers for the dying. This time, too, he answered in a clear, steady voice. After the prayers he held up his crucifix, and made an offering of all his sufferings and of his life at the foot of the Cross, raising himself entirely to the holy will of God, and he made his profession of faith again. I asked him if there was anything he would like me to do for him, any message he would like to send to Stonyhurst or elsewhere. He answered: 'In this supreme moment one should think only of one self.' He exhorted the doctor and himself to love God with our whole hearts, saying that we could not love Him as we should, but we must have a great desire to love and serve Him. He remained very quiet for some time after this, making acts of love, sometimes in English, sometimes in French. At about 3.15 he looked up and asked whether there would be any difficulty in landing his body for burial. The doctor said there would not. Father Perry replied, 'You do your part now, and then Brother Rooney will take charge of everything, and look after the funeral arrangements.' I assured him that I would do as he bided. He seemed very much pleased and gave me his blessing. I replaced the crucifix in his hands, and he kissed it very tenderly, as in fact he always did."

At 3.35 he became unconscious, and within the hour his soul passed quietly away.

HIS FUNERAL. The Governor and Father Scobie, who had been expecting Father Perry to give an astronomical lecture at Demerara, were waiting for him as the steamer came in, and were shocked to find that their guest had died. The warm hand of their friend, but following in his funeral procession to the Cathedral. The remains were interred with all honor, Bishop Baines and the priests of Demerara officiating.

HIS CHARACTER AND SERVICE. We regret that space forbids advertence to the religious virtues, the simplicity, and almost boyish openness of Father Perry, the zeal for souls which made him delight in the opportunity to preach in the out-of-the-way

places whether his select for expeditions brought him, or to give the last Sacraments to some poor dying sailor. But we set out simply to portray the Christian man of science, who believed his chosen pursuit to be his surest way of promoting God's glory, and who had publicly declared his willingness to lay down his life in the cause of astronomy. His magnificent services to science are the best recent refutation of the prevalent slander that the Church is hostile to scientific investigation, or that religion narrows the intellectual range.

A PROTESTANT'S TRIBUTE.

Let us conclude with a brief word from a Protestant, writing in the English Mechanic, to show how this pious Jesuit and eminent scientist impressed those of a hostile creed: "Not more single-hearted, earnest servant of science than he was, ever existed. He was a very religious man, but utterly and absolutely without any cant or pretension. It always seemed to me that Stephen Perry lived to give the lie to the conception of that monstrum horrendum, the typical Jesuit of the Rock and the Record."

The further details of the life and labors of Father Perry, promised in the Month, will be awaited with interest on both sides of the Atlantic.

THE MODUS VIVENDI EXTENSION.

The Reasons of the Dominion Government for the Step.

OTTAWA, April 9.—The notice given last night of the introduction of a bill by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries means more than the mere title conveys. It means the extension of the *modus vivendi* for another year. The bill is entitled "An act respecting fishing vessels of the United States of America." The arrangement which has followed during 1888 and 1889, the favor with which the arrangement has been met by the New England fishermen, more particularly last season, and the prospect of negotiations for the settlement of Atlantic fisheries questions being shortly resumed, have induced the government to take this step, and doubtless the action will be approved by the country. The provisions of the bill are exactly the same as the old one. The extension will date from the present time until Feb. 15, 1891. The chief change of the old enactment is as follows:

For the purpose of carrying into effect the protocol set forth in schedule "B" it is hereby enacted that pending the exchange and ratifications, and for a period not exceeding two years from the 15th of February, 1889, the privilege of entering the bays and harbors on the coast of Canada shall be granted to United States fishing vessels by annual licenses, at a fee of \$1.50 per ton, for the following purposes: The purchase of bait, ice, seines, line and all other supplies and outfit, transhipment of catch and shipping of crews. If, during the continuance of such arrangements, the vessel is engaged in the fish, fresh oil, whale oil and seal oil, as well as on the necessary casks, barrels, kegs, and other usual and necessary coverings containing them, such licenses shall be issued free of charge by such officers and in such form as the Governor and Council may determine.

It was further provided that this arrangement could be revoked at any time by proclamation.

Eviction in County Cork.

A remarkable incident in connection with the eviction of Mr. Patrick Shinnick, P. L. C., has come to light. A sub-tenant, named Leahy, was also evicted, and in his case no notice of eviction was served on either himself or the relieving officer. In consequence, his wife, and five very young children, the eldest about eight years old, and the youngest a mere infant, were thrown on the roadside, where they had to remain all night, exposed to a piercing easterly wind, without any protection. This proceeding will be made the subject of inquiry.—United Ireland.

Boodling Aldermen in the Eternal City.

ROME, April 13.—Owing to the freedom with which the press of Rome has indulged in criticism on the bankrupt condition of the Eternal City, the municipality has ordered the exclusion of all representatives of the press from sources of official information. The result has been that the papers are more than ever determined to ventilate the incompetency and corruptions which have led to the humiliating condition of the city, as they declare that in addition to the general deficit of 1,500,000, there are 8,000,000 lire owed on account of annuities.

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THE NATIONALITY CRY.

Raised by "Le Canada" in Connection with the Ottawa Election.

It looks as if the nationality cry was about to be raised in the bye-elections in Ottawa city to replace the late Mr. Perley, M. P. Mr. A. J. Christie announces his candidature in the Liberal-Conservative interest. *Le Canada*, looked upon as one of Mr. Chapleau's organs, under the heading of "Let us respect ourselves," says: "The friends of Mr. C. H. MacIntosh are having requisitions signed asking him to become a candidate to replace the late Mr. Perley. Mr. MacIntosh has already filled some important positions in Ottawa, and he is well known by the public. We have already had occasion to condemn his conduct towards our compatriots after his defeat in Russell. Unfortunate words fell from his lips and regrettable articles were published by his paper, the *Citizen*, both of which were insults to the French-Canadians. We therefore declare now that there must be no misunderstanding. We will not support Mr. MacIntosh if he should be the only Conservative candidate, unless a public apology be made to our fellow Nationalists. The fanaticism raised in the whole country against us is trying to deprive us of acquired rights. Several of our political friends have gone back on us and joined our opponents on questions which touch us very closely. Let us know how to make ourselves respected."

Airaid of the Working Classes.

LONDON, April 13.—Apprehension is felt throughout the continent as to the workingmen's celebration of May 1st as a general holiday. In most of the capitals the officials are taking extensive precautions against rioting. The workmen, on the other hand, are swelling with indignation at the suggestion that disorder is possible as the result of their proposed demonstration. A deputation of workmen paid a visit to the headquarters of the police at Buda Pesth to-day and specifically informed the authorities of their plans, declaring that they, themselves, would guarantee to prevent any disorder whatever.

British Expedition to Central Africa.

LONDON, April 14.—It is now no secret that the British East Africa Society has decided and has already begun preparations to send an expedition from Malabara to the debatable Lake Territory in the interior of Africa in advance of the proposed German expedition, to be headed by Emin. The various stories concerning the purpose of Emin's return to the interior have aroused the suspicions of the British East Africa people that it is not the philanthropy of the Egyptian Equatorial Provinces of his territory, but rather a desire to forestall the British in the actual occupation of the Lake country, the most fruitful and desirable of any of the territory. The suspicion has grown into conviction, and it has been resolved to anticipate the German movement. Of this expedition it is asserted that Stanley will assume the leadership at a later date, and the fact that he has declined a number of invitations to banquets, and lends color to this statement, assuming that Stanley has declined these honors because they would interfere with his preparations to return to Africa.

Commenting on these reports the *Pall Mall Gazette* says the day of discovery and exploration in Africa is now opening. The "Dark Continent" has been opened to the hands of the financier, and finances will henceforth develop what has been discovered and discover what remains to be developed.

COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL MARKET QUOTATIONS.

FLOUR GRAIN, &c.

FLOUR.—Receipts during the past week were 16,227 bbls, against 4,023 bbls the week previous. There are signs of greater strength and a little more activity, sales of strong bakers for local account have been made at \$4.90, straight rollers have been placed at \$4.40 to \$4.50. Advances from Western millers state that prices must advance as they are paying several cents higher for their wheat, sales being reported at Campbellford and district at 90c per 57 lbs and at higher prices in other districts.

Patent winter, \$4.75 to \$5.20; Patent spring, \$5.10 to \$5.20; Straight roller, \$4.30 to \$4.50; Extra, \$4.20 to \$4.40; Superior, \$3.50 to \$3.80; No. 1, \$3.00 to \$3.25; City Strong Bakers, \$0.00 to \$4.00; Strong Bakers, \$4.50 to \$4.90; Ontario best—superior, \$1.65 to \$2.00; Ontario best—fine, \$1.40 to \$1.80.

WHEAT.—Receipts during the past week were 19,958 bushels, against 6,747 bushels the week previous. Sales of No. 1 Manitoba wheat have been made at \$1.08 at points west of Toronto, and we quote prices here from \$1.07 to \$1.08 for No. 1, and \$1.05 to \$1.06 for No. 2. In Chicago the market was quite excited at one time to-day. May wheat selling up to 85c, but closing at 82c.

CORN.—Receipts during the week were nil, against 5,450 bush, for the week previous. No. 2 Chicago mixed 40c in bond, and we quote 47c to 48c duty paid as to quality.

BARLEY.—Receipts during the past week were 1,200 bushels. The market is firmer at 46c to 49c as to quality for malting, and feed barley 40c to 45c.

were 233 pkgs., against 325 pkgs. for the week previous. We quote: Standard in bags at \$1.70 to \$1.80 and granulated at \$1.75 to \$1.90. In bbls granulated \$3.75 to \$4 and ordinary standard at \$3.50 to \$3.75. Rolled oats \$3.70 to \$4.00 per bbl, and \$1.80 to \$1.95 in bags. Pearl barley \$5 to \$6.30 per bbl, and oat barley at \$4 to \$4.25. Split peas, \$3.70 to \$3.90.

PEAS.—Receipts during the past week were 11,564 bushels, against 17,634 bushels for the week previous. Prices are quoted as 67c to 68c per 68 lbs, in store. Sellers for May float 72c to 72c, and buyers at 70c to 70c.

MEAT, FEED, &c.—Brain still scarce at \$17.00, sales having been made at the figure. Some pretend they can buy at \$18.50 in car lots. Shorts are quoted at \$18 to \$19, and moultrie \$20 to \$21 per ton, lower qualities selling at \$15 to \$18.

MALT.—Market quiet. Ontario malt at 65c to 70c per bushel delivered here in small lots. SWEETS.—Canadian trolley firm at \$2.30 per bush, American at \$1.75 to \$1.85 as to quality. Red clover 7 to 8c per lb. Alalfa 11c to 12c per lb, blue grass \$1 to \$1.50 as to quality, and red top 60c to 70c.

PROVISIONS. PORK, LARD, &c.—It is thought that the duty on pork will be satisfactorily adjusted to suit the wishes and conveniences of the trade. A fair local business is reported in Canadian short cut, and American do. clear within quotations. In lard the sales were reported at \$1.65 to \$1.70 per gall for Canadian, American being quoted at \$1.75. Smead roads are firm under a steady demand, and we quote as follows:—Canada short cut clear, per bbl, \$15.50 to \$16.00; Chicago short cut clear, per bbl, \$15.25 to \$15.50; Mess pork, Western, per bbl, \$14.50 to \$15.00; Hams, city cured, per lb, 11c to 12c; Lard, Western, in pails, per lb, 8c to 9c; Bacon, in pails, 11c to 11c; Shoulders, 00c; Tallow, common, refined, per lb, 3c to 4c.

COUNTRY PRODUCE. EGGS.—Receipts during the past week were 1,075 packages, against 1,657 packages for the week previous. Prices have again declined during the week, with sales at 11c to 11c. To-day however there was a little more enquiry, and prices were somewhat firmer.

BEANS.—Under slow demand, the market retains its quiet aspect. Sales of jobbing lots are still made at \$1.45 to \$1.55 for good qualities, and round lots are quoted at \$1.40.

HONEY.—Free arrivals of maple syrup are still affecting demand for honey. Prices are nominally unchanged though tending downward. Extracted, 9c to 10c as to quality. Comb honey 14c to 15c for white clover and 1 lb sections. Buckwheat honey in comb 13c to 14c, in sections.

BREKWA.—Market quiet but steady, quotations from 24c to 26c per lb.

MAPLE SUGAR AND SYRUP.—Receipts are coming in freely and the supply on hand is ample. Sugar in selling from 7c to 8c per lb with fancy qualities occasionally bringing 8c in small quantities. Sugar is quoted at 65c to 70c per can wine measure, 85c to 90c per can Imperial measure. Sales in wood are still made at 6c per lb.

HOPS.—Canadians are firmer in tone, sales having been reported recently at from 13c to 16c per lb as to quality. Old hops 5c to 6c per lb.

HAY.—The market is quiet but steady for pressed hay; good timothy is selling from \$3 to \$3.50 on track; ordinary from \$2 to \$7, and fancy qualities are bringing in some instances \$10.50.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.—Receipts during the past week were 680 pkgs, against 1,158 pkgs for the week previous. There is a steady demand for new butter, which is selling at 17c to 20c. Some dealers complain that recent receipts from the Eastern Townships are composed of a mixture of new and old butter. There is some enquiry for Western butter. Newforshire 8c in small lots. Butter is quoted at 65c to 70c per can wine measure, 85c to 90c per can Imperial measure. Sales in wood are still made at 6c per lb.

FRUITS, &c. APPLES, &c.—The market is very strong, a round lot of Western apples being sold at \$4 per bbl, and sales of jobbing lots are reported \$5 to \$7 per bbl, and some holders intend asking \$8 to \$9 per bbl. Poor and waxy stock from \$1.50 to \$2.50.

ORANGES.—The market is firmer and higher at \$3.00 to \$3.75. Some fancy lemons have sold as high as \$8.00.

LEMONS.—The market remains firm under a steady enquiry, Valencia being quoted in cases at \$5.50, per box. Messina, \$3.25 to \$3.50, per box. Bitter oranges, \$5 per box, and Florida, \$4.25 to \$4.50.

VEGETABLES.—The market is well supplied, and prices are very reasonable at \$1.00 to \$2.00 per bunch as to size and quality.

DRIED APPLES.—There is a fairly steady market at 5c to 6c per lb.

EVAPORATED APPLES.—Market somewhat excited with sales at 12c, and we quote 12c to 12c per lb.

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