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Northwest Review.

TUESDAY, JUNE 29 1897.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The memory of A GENTLE Mgr. Merry del HINT. Val's visit will long be cherished wherever he has passed. The exquisite blending in his person and manner of the highest breeding with the most charming simplicity, of an easy flow of faultless speech and apt replies to innumerable addresses with consummate prudence and transparent sincerity, is a rare treat one cannot hope to find duplicated in an ordinary lifetime.

It would be difficult to imagine a more delicate hint than the one he gave to the young ladies of St. Joseph's Academy last month in Toronto. The true inwardness of this gentle criticism will be realized by those who remember that, on his father's side, the Delegate is of Irish descent and, far from wishing to let the fact be forgotten, is just proud of it. Here is a quotation from his reply, as reported by the Mail and Empire:

"I see myself surrounded by welcomes expressed in different tongues, in English, Spanish and Italian. I see in the numbers of the programme that Germany by her Mozart, Spain in the hymn which we have heard—'Flores de Mayo,' and other nations are represented; but I see nothing from the dear land of Erin. I suppose the answer to that is found in the performers being young girls who bear such names as Cassidy, Walsh, Shannon, Quinn and so on; and that the omission is made up for by the performers themselves, who, representing such names, are competent to produce everything representative of all other countries and of Canada."

We trust these young ladies and all other young ladies that come, however remotely, "from the dear land of Eriu," will take this soft, sweet rebuke to heart and never be ashamed to chant the glories of their Catholic fatherland, the home of poesy and song, of faith beyond compare, of chivalry to women, of matchless wit and cleverness. Could any one but a man of Irish descent have so deftly mingled praise with blame as they are mingled in the foregoing extract?

By some strange MR. W. H. mishop the March THORNE. number of the Globe Review never reached this office. It was only indirectly that we learnt how it had something to say about our temperate criticism of its editor, and we have as yet not seen that

number. We were humbly resigning ourselves to being cut off from Mr. Thorne's exchanges when we were agreeably surprised to receive the June number of his review. It is one of the most startling of his many startling issues. He himself writes six of the articles, in which it is safe to say there is not a dull line. The thirteen sonnets headed "Foregleams" maintain Mr. Thorne's reputation as a true, melodious and thoughtful poet.

Reviewing Cardinal Gibbons' new book, "The Ambassador of Christ," Mr. Thorne, who begins by bestowing judicious and well merited praise, goes on to controvert, or rather, squarely to deny the Cardinal's assertion that the American nation is, on the whole, law-abiding and just.

"If there is any thing," he says "especially characteristic of the Roman Catholic Church it is obedience to constituted authority, and if there is anything especially characteristic of Americanism from ocean to ocean it is to be a law unto itself and not to care a rush for constituted authority. . . . Still the Cardinal says we are a law-abiding people and without bigotry. Why, ignorant bigotry is the air and life of average Americanism. New England Yankeeism is full of it. . . . Ignorance and bigotry, unfairness and injustice are the very essence of American civilization, as far as it can be differentiated from the civilization of the nations of the Old World."

THE SCHOOL MOLOCH.

There is withering sarcasm in the following: "About forty millions of our so-called Americans of all European races are so-called Protestants, of a hundred bigoted and contemptible creeds and about fifteen millions of all European races are Catholics. A large majority of these Catholics are so conscientious regarding the matter of the importance of religious instruction for their children, that they simply cannot send those children to the modern Moloch known as the American Public school, and yet, though those fifteen millions pay their full share of the school tax, this beautiful sense of justice which the good Cardinal lauds so highly is blasted, seared, rotten and damnable that no portion of the school tax is devoted by the Protestant American majority toward the schools which Catholics feel bound to provide for their children. Still—according to His Eminence of Baltimore—Americans are not bigoted, but are just and have a fine sense of fairness and fair play." "The Manitoba Protestant majority could give points to the Americans; they deny the constitutional rights of the majority and then plume themselves not merely on their fairness but on their generosity. It looks very much as if Protestantism had lost all comprehension of what fairplay means."

Self-Sacrifice Rewarded.

In our last issue we chronicled the fact that the students of St. Boniface College had, of their own accord, resigned all ownership in the books they were entitled to as prizes, and had offered the value of these hard-won laurels as a contribution to the fund for Catholic schools. His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface, who was at the time presiding over the solemn consecration of Monseigneur Legal at St. Albert, has since written the following letter

To the Rev. R. Chartier, S. J., Rector of St. Boniface College. Reverend and very dear Father,

"The generosity of our dear students, giving up their prizes and offering the value of them, fifty dollars, for our free Manitoba Catholic schools, has greatly touched me.

I am truly proud of your boys and young men. This promises well for the future. A generation that thus believes in self-sacrifice will, later on, bear fruits of courage and disinterestedness which will gladden the Church and our fatherland.

Oh! If the dear Province of Quebec could only understand how

worthy of credence we are when we affirm that we are still oppressed without any alleviation of the chains riveted upon us by unjust legislation. Have not those who suffer for a cause a better right to be listened to than those who make capital out of the issue and who are interested in killing it and proclaiming its interment?

I thank you very cordially, and add that this act of Christian abnegation reflects great honor on the distinguished masters of these young students, who are merely practising the sublime lessons given at St. Boniface College by the admirable Fathers of the Society of Jesus. It is the poor man's mite, which will deserve, I trust, honorable mention from the Divine Master, who is ever watching from what hands comes the "Manitoba Penny" ("Le denier du Manitoba").

Your most devoted and most gratified Archbishop, who blesses you and our dear students with "the dew of heaven."

A DELARD, O. M. I.,
Abp. of St. Boniface.

We need hardly add our own congratulations to praise from so exalted a quarter. Suffice it to say that the applause, with which the large and select audience in the College Hall on the 16th inst. greeted the announcement of the students' generosity, proves conclusively that the vast majority of Manitoba Catholics are ever ready to deny themselves for the sake of securing Catholic education to their children, and that their hearts beat in perfect unison with the noble heart of their beloved Archbishop.

GOT THEIR "SHEEPSKINS."

Students of Ottawa University receive degrees and diplomas.

Mgr. Del Val Obtains the Degree of Doctor of Canon Law—Commencement Exercises in the Evening.

Ottawa Evening Journal, June 18th 1897.

V-A-R-S-I-T-Y! V-A-R-S-I-T-Y! Rah! Rah! Rah! were the cheers which rang loud and long through the dramatic hall of Ottawa University last evening as MGR. MERRY DEL VAL, the Papal delegate, entered the hall to preside at the commencement exercises.

It was the 49th annual commencement of the institution, and a serious and sedate function as befitted the occasion. Of course there was much enthusiasm. There were several Ottawa boys among the graduates, and they stood high in their class.

The dramatic hall was filled with people; in fact, it seemed as if all Ottawa was there. The seats near the stage were occupied by the learned young men in gowns. The stage never looked more beautiful. It was decorated with scenery, and a verdant background rose high against the rear wall. Placed in a prominent position towards the front of the stage was a well executed and handsome class picture of this year's B. A.'s. And it was amid all this that the university sent forth its wards to battle with life.

His Excellency MGR. MERRY DEL VAL sat in the centre of the stage in all the glory of a very full scarlet gown, that spoke of his divinity order. Grouped about him were the members of the faculty, guests of honor and visiting clergy, all simply bubbling over with happiness. Their smiles were as broad as the principles of philosophy.

Degree Conferred.

The Chancellor of the University, Rev. Dr. McGuckin, opened proceedings in a neat speech, and was followed by Archbishop Duhamel in French, who conferred the Degree of Doctor of Canon Law on the apostolic delegate.

This evoked much applause, and brought Mgr. Merry del Val to his feet. "I rise," said he, "with singular gratification for the honor I have just received. There already exists a link between the faculty and professors of this institution and myself, for I number among them several dear friends—friends I have

known in my youth: but this degree, with which I have just been invested, adds another link to the golden chain of sympathy and affection, not only with this University, but with the city of Ottawa itself. (Applause.)

"I beg all who were concerned in conferring upon me this degree to accept my thanks. I do not for a moment forget that this is far above my qualities, but one thing is foremost in my mind, that the degree just bestowed upon me expresses the gratification of this University towards the Holy See and the Pope. The university owes every thing to the Holy Father. It is his desire that Catholic universities should surpass all kindred institutions, and this is more than possible, for everything in the Catholic faith fosters universal knowledge. Besides being the centre of learning the university is a watch-tower for all mankind—a watch-tower in its double capacity of guarding off danger and warning approaching mariners.

"As I stand here this evening, visions of the famed universities of yore rise up before me, of Bologna, of Salamanca, of Oxford, where all was quiet and peace, and naught disturbed the halo over Learning's head. Those were the time of Roger Bacon, an Alcuin, a Bede and an Alfred. But how changed the scene now! People are so warlike, fortifying their frontiers; so commercial, building large navies; so self-seeking, envying their neighbor's wealth. The opposite should be the case. Universal peace and quiet should reign, and pursuits more peaceful should be followed. Great that soon it may be so.

"I will end with offering my congratulations to the graduates I see here before me, and wish them every success in the battle of life."

Then there was much music by the Guards orchestra, and afterwards came the conferring of degrees by Mgr. del Val.

Got Their Sheepskins.

The graduates marched upon the stage in single file, received their gowns, mortarboards and sheepskins, returned and resumed their places.

The Ottawa contingent, who were well up to the front in the "pass" list, received much applause, and deserved it, too. As the men of brawn and muscle filed up—the romantic, long-haired football players—the cheers and "Varsities" that arose were simply deafening.

After the degrees were conferred, the orchestra again struck up and enlivened proceedings for a while.

Then Rev. Dean Harris, who had received an LL. D., stepped forward and in a manner clear, concise and forcible, expressed his views on Catholic education, as well as gave some sound parting advice to the graduates.

Dean Harris was followed in his address by Rev. Abbé Gosselin, of Quebec, who had also just received an LL. D. The Rev. Abbé spoke in French eulogizing the University and the work it was doing, and predicting for it every success in the future.

The Medallists.

Everyone was now in expectation of hearing who were the medallists and special prize winners. These follow: Medals of Honor For Excellence in Christian Doctrine.

English course.—Silver medal presented by His Grace the Most Rev. J. T. Duhamel, Archbishop of Ottawa, Chancellor of the University.—Awarded to George Prudhomme, Cantley, P. Q. French course.—Silver medal presented by Very Rev. J. M. McGuckin, O. M. I., rector of the University.—Awarded to Aurélien Belanger, Ottawa Ont.

For Class Standing.—These medals are awarded to those only who have followed all the branches taught in their class. The successful competitor for

a medal has to obtain eighty per cent of the sum of the marks for all the branches, and not less than sixty per cent. in any branch.

University Course.

Third year, sixth form.—Silver medal presented by His Excellency Lord Aberdeen.—Awarded to John Hanley, Read, Ont.—First in merit.

Silver medal presented by Very Rev. J. Lefebvre, O. M. I. provincial, Montreal, P. Q.—Awarded to Ferdinand Lappe, Ottawa, Ont.—Second in merit.

Second year, fifth form.—Silver medal presented by Very Rev. J. Keough, V. G., Paris, Ont.—Awarded to Elias Doyle, Hawkesbury.—First in merit.

Silver medal presented by N. A. Belcourt, L. L. D., M. P., Ottawa.—Awarded to William Egleson, Ottawa.—Second in merit.

First year, fourth form.—Silver medal presented by Dr. D. Phelan, Kingston.—Awarded to John Meehan, Huntley, Ont.—First in merit.

Collegiate Course.

Third form.—Silver medal presented by Rev. C. C. Delany, B. A., Burlington, Vt. Awarded to James Green, Rutland, Vt.—First in merit.

Silver medal presented by Dr. Wm. P. Lawler, Lowell, Mass.—Awarded to Tobias Morin, Erie, Mich. Second in merit.

Second form. Silver medal presented by Rev. O. Boucher, Haverhill, Mass. Awarded to Joseph Murphy, Lac la Hache, B. C. First in merit.

First form (division A.) Silver medal presented by Rev. T. J. Fitzpatrick, B. A., Providence, R. I. Awarded to George Kelly, Ottawa. First in merit.

First form (division B.) Silver medal presented by W. L. Scott, B. A., Ottawa, Ont. First in merit.

Commercial Course.

Silver medal presented by A. E. Lussier, B. A., Ottawa.—Awarded to Emile Belliveau, Ottawa.

Silver medal presented by Dr. J. L. Chabot, Ottawa.—Awarded to John Abbott, Naugatuck, Conn.

Silver medal presented by His Lordship Right Rev. Alexander Macdonell, Bishop of Alexandria, to the student of the University course obtaining the highest average in monthly notes and sessional examinations.—Awarded to Aurélien Belanger, Ottawa, whose average for the year is 94 4-10 per cent.

Silver medal presented by Hon. Mr. Justice Curran, Superior Court, P. Q., to the student of Collegiate course obtaining the highest average in monthly notes and sessional examinations.—Awarded to George Kelly, Ottawa, whose average for the year is 95 6-10 per cent.

The Murray gold medal, for excellence in English literature, presented by James Warnock, Ottawa. Awarded to John Quilty, Ashdod, Ont.

Special prize Agnes Repplier's works in four volumes presented by Rev. D. V. Phalen, B. A. '89, Canso, N. S., for the best essay on the Use and Abuse of the Novel. Awarded to L. E. O. Payment, Billings' Bridge.

After the medals were distributed the reading of the valedictories took place. Mr. Aurélien Belanger of Ottawa read the one in French, while Mr. John Quilty of Ashdod, Ont., was chosen to deliver the one in English. Both were very expressive, references being made in them to departed professors and students, and to the joy not unmixed with sorrow brought to the graduates leaving their Alma Mater.

The 49th commencement exercises of Ottawa University were then at an end.

We learn, as we are going to press, the sad news of the death of the Reverend Mother Deschamps, Superior General of the Order of the Grey Nuns of Montreal. She died this morning at the Mother House in Montreal.