

Northwest Review

AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM

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LENT.

The gracious days of Lent are here. With solemn steps and garb austere, So stern, and yet so strangely dear. A time to count our wasted years, A time for holy Christian fears, A time for penitential tears; A time with bitter sweetness fraught, A time for sober, sadder thought, A time for works of penance wrought; A time to fast and watch and pray, A time to give our wealth away, To live more strictly day by day; A time to welcome pain and loss, To count all earthly treasures dross, To cling more closely to the Cross; To walk along that blood-stained road, The way of sorrows Jesus trod, Bearing a little of His load. This is the one sweet task of Lent, To go the way our Master went, With eyes and footsteps heavenward bent 'Till we have done with times of fast, 'Till the short Lent of life is past, 'Till heaven's bright Easter dawns at last.

Rules For Lent.

The official lenten regulations of the diocese are:

1. All days of Lent, Sunday excepted, are fast days.
2. By a special indulgent from the Holy See, A.D. 1884, meat is allowed on Sundays at every meal, and at one meal on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays, except the Saturday of Ember week and Holy Saturday.
3. The use of flesh and fish at the same time is not allowed in Lent.

The following persons are exempted from abstinence, viz.: Children under seven years of age, and from fasting persons under twenty-one, and from other or both those who, on account of ill-health, hard labor, or advanced age, or some other legitimate cause, cannot observe the law. In case of doubt the pastor should be consulted.

Lard may be used in preparing fasting food during the season of Lent, except on Good Friday, as also on all days of abstinence throughout the year by those who cannot easily procure butter.

Parsons are required to hold in their respective churches, at least twice in the week during Lent, devotions and instructions suited to the holy season; and they should earnestly exhort their people to attend these public devotions. They are hereby authorized to give on these occasions Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Besides the public devotions, family prayers, especially the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin, should be recited in every Catholic household in the diocese.

"Great Snakes!"

The St. Louis Republic is responsible for the following remarkable "snake story." Manitobans will be surprised to hear that—

"There is a horse-shoe-shaped mountain up in Manitoba which literally swarms with snakes twice every year. In the early fall these slippery customers gather here from all directions, mostly from the prairie country to the south. In one side of the mountain there is a circular hole, about fifteen feet deep, and as smooth as if it had been fashioned with a well auger, where tens of thousands of reptiles gather to spend the cold winter months. Persons who have tried to explore this immense snake den during the summer, when the regular tenants were absent, say that dozens of subterranean passages lead out under the mountains in all directions from the bottom of the well. Captain Silvers, Royal Engineers, estimates that he has seen as many as 300,000 snakes of all sizes, knotted together and piled up in a semi-knotted state in this 'well of serpents,' as it is called in the Northwest."

[The St. Louis Republic man must have had a vision in which he wandered in imagination into one of our P.P.A. lodges. They are the only collection of snakes we know of in Manitoba.—Ed. REVIEW.]

A Sermon by the Pope.

The Pope delivered in St. Peter's Church, Rome, recently, an address suggested by the recent disturbances in Italy. He expressed himself with great tact and frankness when he referred to current affairs, and his words deeply impressed the minds of all present. His Holiness spoke substantially as follows:

"The present occasion gives us fresh proof of the devotion of the Roman people, to whom we wish all blessings. In view of this, it is easy to understand our bitterness when we think of the trying conditions in Rome, which are aggravated by the general state of the peninsula. Let us hope, however, that the present disasters can be repaired and order can be restored in those districts which are now troubled. We cannot on this occasion omit to recall the past, when the presence of the Popes gave Rome, not merely for years, but for centuries, glorious tranquil prosperity. That prosperity was the outcome of neither chance nor the institutions of man. It was rational and sure of the morrow. Life was then calm and well ordered. Nothing was wanting for the well being of the people. The opposite is true of the present. If we would profit by bitter experience let us trace the evils to our origin and seek an effectual remedy.

"The religious ruin, invoked and designed, has brought moral and material ruin. Not only justice, but also political expediency must demand the return of the nation to the religion of its fathers with mutual confidence and affection, and without suspicion of the Pope, whose preaching of the life eternal renders even mortal life happy and prosperous."

The Pope seemed to be in excellent health and spirits.

A GREAT SUCCESS.

Entertainment at Rat Portage Convent.

A decided success was the entertainment given on the evening of Monday, 5th instant, and repeated on Tuesday evening by the day pupils of Mount Carmel Convent.

There was about twenty numbers on the programme, the first of which was "Welcome," by seven mere babies,—Stella Kenealey, Lizzie Horrigan, Bernadette Donville, Lena Charbonneau, Laura Hilliard, Bertha L'Heureux and Mabel Ward. Each bore her representative letter, and indeed it required seven of such stature to wrestle with the immense two-syllabled word.

"Mary Queen of Scots," a recitation, was rendered by Miss Alice Ratchford in the absence of Miss Trean to whom it had been allotted. Her enunciation was perfect, although she recited rather hurriedly.

"Pussy Cats' Party" consisted of Stella Kenealey, Bertha L'Heureux, Emilie Bariteau, Eddie McMurdie, Willie Archambault, Joseph Bariteau, Mabel Ward and Bernadette Donville all dressed in character, with tails, bibs, tin cups and spoons. Stella Kenealey was the mamma and after careful training she hoped that all her family would behave very politely at the party; but in the handling of their cups and spoons they deceived their mamma sadly.

"La Promenade" and "Les Vacances" were well rendered by junior French pupils.

"The Bell Drill" by the boy pupils was regularly and pleasingly effective. The music of the bells is always irresistible.

The Fan Drill by the girls was extremely pretty in its execution, and besides, to the beholder, it suggested varying or kaleidoscopic glimpses of a Japanese gallery.

"Bluebeard," an operetta in two acts, was one of the most fascinating numbers on the programme.

As "Bluebeard" is a skit on Henry VIII it embodies the very soul of English humor; but the English composer was very careful not only to make Bluebeard a Tartar, but to lay the scene in Tartary. Now comes the test or rather the difficulty of reproduction—as to the costumes and characters to be represented. And here these good Nuns' travels, sojournings, and studies in different countries of the Old World stand them in good stead. The costumes and manners of the respective characters were so very Oriental as to make those of us who had visited the World's Fair fancy we were once more on "The Midway."

The parts were taken by Katie Emmons, Bertha Ritevic, Nellie Galigan, Alice Ratchford, Laura Westgate, Jennie McGee, Nellie Brown; and as fairies were introduced, Sadie Goodman was Fairy Queen.

In the second scene Bluebeard's Guards under the command of their Captain, Alfred McDonald, went through a course of mimic military drill; their get-up and mock gravity, choruses, and deportment creating great amusement.

The acting throughout was all that could be desired and the singing was exquisite.

A march by Hoffman, was executed with much expression by Miss Reed.

Duet in D—Diabelli, by two of the advanced pupils was also well rendered.

March (Trio) by Gobberts, and played by Miss McMurdie, Miss Lachapelle and Miss Archambault, was very pleasing.

Guillaume Tell and the apple shooting was ably illustrated by Louis Plouffe, Freddy Baribeau and Leo Lenille.

"Vat You Please," by Alfred McDonald was a very humorous recital in broken English, of a hungry Frenchman's experience with an English waiter.

"Gypsy Girl," a song in character, was pathetically rendered by the sweet, plaintive voices of the little girls,—Rosie Lavoie, Jennie McGee and Veronica McLachlan.

"Perseverance," a recitation well given by Master Savage, enumerated the many trials and sufferings of a school boy while struggling with a course of education especially in the writing or rather learning to write department.

A March, (Duet) by Miss McMurdie and Miss Cook, with triangle accompaniment by Bertha L'Heureux and Laura Hilliard was very pleasing.

"Diamond Cut Diamond," an operetta in two acts, was brimful of Irish wit and humor. It was composed in his college days by an eminent musician, who is now a grave ecclesiastic. The characters were thus taken:

Paddy Blake,—Hattie Mulligan, with long ulster and broad brimmed hat under which was tucked all tall-tresses.

Solomon (the Jew)—Laura Westgate with severe long black coat and skull cap.

Bob (Solomon's clerk)—Laura Monroe. The Judge—Alice Ratchford enveloped in the regulation gown.

The argument of this operetta consists in the usurer-Jew with his 'doctored' scales weighing, and at length buying at a low figure, the golden nuggets of poor simple-minded and more simple-hearted Paddy Blake, who has recently returned from the gold mines. The nuggets prove to be brass, Paddy is captured, tried, and when a terrible sentence is about to be passed upon him he insists upon the nuggets being weighed by the Judge. His request is complied with, scales are brought into court, and the nuggets weigh twenty ounces, whereas those bought by the Jew weighed only fifteen ounces(?) Now Paddy Blake triumphantly avers that they cannot be "the darlin's" he sold the Jew. So he is acquitted with much glory, and money in his pockets besides, which Paddy finds very convenient.

This operetta, in its different points, changes, and progress throughout, is given body and soul through the medium of Moore's Melodi's parodied in a most witty and masterly manner. The Jew

langhs first and his low ripples are attuned to "The Meeting of the Waters:"

There is not in this wide world a pleasure so sweet, As a genuine out-and-out Paddy to meet, Hal the ast ray of feeling and life must depart Ere the joy of his presence shall fade from heart. Yet it's not his knee breeches, his elegant hat, That tickle me so when I meet with dear Pat, 'Tis not his soft accent, his "shall" and his "will."

Oh no! it is something more exquisite still, 'Tis his eye, wherein nature has set to be seen Her clearest of crystal, her brightest of green, So clear, you can see in his soul every bend, So green, that he thinks all the worlds his friend.

Sweet simperton Paddy! how happy I'd be If our customers all were as simple as thee, How easily then all the world we would fleece, Make our fortunes with speed and enjoy them with peace.

Again, when backed by "The Harp of Tara" what could excel Paddy's pathetic, and triumphant summing-up of the case before making his final bow?

The hope that once on Judah's brow, The smile of triumph shined, That hope is gone to glory now That bearing smiles is dead, So sleeps thy wisdom, Solomon, So Robby's game is o'er, And he's that best to rob poor Pat.

Now feel that pulse no more, No more 'mid lords and ladies bright Poor Pat can cut the swell; His modest frize, his purse so light, The tale of ruin tell, Thus Erins' genius lost to view, The only such she gives Is when poor Paddy's name in a Jew To show that still she lives.

Rat Portage is to be congratulated upon the possession of the Convent of Mount Carmel. This institution of learning is in charge of the Faithful Companions of Jesus, highly educated Nuns, who conduct academies in England, Scotland, Ireland, Italy, Australia and Canada.

Several years before they came to Canada, the writer learned much of these good Nuns or "Rev. Sisters" as we style them, from one of their former pupils, a daughter of the Marquis of D'Erville, France, who is now a Nun of Loretto Convent, Toronto, and whose sister is Mrs. D'Erville, of Toronto.

The Rev. Mothers have taught not only nobleman's daughters, but princesses also; and while they have dear pupils in the shadow of the court, they love even more the dear children they have found in the shadow of "the woods."

IDRIS.

Father Cherrier at St. Mary's.

Rev. Father Cherrier, of the Immaculate Conception Church, preached at St. Mary's, on Sunday last, at vespers. The announcement that the rev. father was to occupy the pulpit attracted a very large congregation to hear one of the most able and eloquent pulpit orators of the country. He took for his text the words, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace and bring tidings of good things," Romans x. 15.

After inviting the congregation to ponder on these words in conjunction with the context, he proceeded to consider three points suggested by them:—First, the necessity of a Divine commission to preach the Gospel; second, the great good to be derived from the preaching of the Gospel; third, what lamentable misfortunes will fall upon them that will not hear the preaching of those who are sent. He pointed out that so long as their first parents perished in a state of innocence God Himself spoke familiarly to them, but after the fall He sent His angel and His prophets to speak for Him, and lastly His own Divine Son, who came to be the Light of the world, and who after preaching Himself gave us His apostles a commission to go and preach to all nations after He left this earth. There was not one word said about committing the teachings to tablets or paper, but the Gospel was to be spread by their preaching, and by that of their successors, with whom Jesus promised to remain until the end of time.

Continuing, Father Cherrier traced the career of the apostles and their successors and preachers of the Word, and incidentally referred to the charge made against Catholics that they are not allowed to read the Bible. He remembered that some years ago a Protestant minister went so far as to say that he doubted whether a copy of the Bible could be found in a priest's house in this country; but upon investigation it was found that between St. Boniface and St. Mary's presbyteries they possessed upwards of two hundred editions either of the whole or parts of the Bible. He then eloquently reviewed the great success which had attended the preaching of the Word, and referred to the fact that the previous day was the sixty-eighth anniversary of the approval of that great missionary body which labored in this country, and in all portions of the world, and to which the clergy of St. Mary's belonged, viz., the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Father Cherrier closed with an earnest appeal to all present to listen to the Word of God as preached in that church, and thus avoid the terrible result promised to those who would not listen.

Miss Madge Barrett made her re-appearance in the choir, and sang a "Sancta Maria" at benediction.

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Yours gratefully,

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