

"The Northwest Review"

IS PUBLISHED AT

No. 31 McDermot St., Winnipeg

Every Saturday morning.

SUBSCRIPTION:—One year, \$2.50; Six months \$1.50. Clubs of five, \$2.00. Strictly cash in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES.

One Column, 12 months	\$200 00
" " " " " "	120 00
" " " " " "	75 00
Half Column, 12 months	120 00
" " " " " "	75 00
" " " " " "	40 00
Quarter Column, 12 months	40 00
" " " " " "	25 00
" " " " " "	15 00
One-Eighth Column, 12 months	15 00
" " " " " "	10 00
" " " " " "	5 00

Transient advertising, 10 cents per line each section.

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Notice of Births, Marriages and Deaths, 50 cents each insertion.

Correspondence conveying facts of interest will be welcomed and published.

J. J. CHADOCK,
Editor and Publisher.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER.

- 12 Of the Octave.
- 13 3rd Sunday in Advent.
- 14 Of the Octave.
- 15 Octave of the Immaculate Conception.
- 16 Fast. Ember Day. St. Eustidius B. and M.
- 17 Of the Octave.
- 18 Fast. Ember Day. Expectation of the B. V. M.
- 19 Fast. Ember Day. Of the Octave.
- 20 4th Sunday in Advent.
- 21 St. Thomas, A.
- 22 Of the Octave.
- 23 Fast. Of the Octave.
- 24 Fast. Vigil of Christmas.
- 25 Christmas. Feast of Obligation.
- 26 St. Stephen. Proto Martyr.
- 27 St. John. A. and E.
- 28 Holy Innocents.
- 29 St. Thomas a Becket, B. and M.
- 30 Of the Sunday in the Octave.
- 31 St. Sylvester, P. and C.

THE PRESS—THE PEOPLE'S DUTY.—If you wish to have an honest press you must honestly support it.—Archbishop MacHale.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1885.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The card of Mr. Lynn, who is contesting ward 3 for aldermanic honors, will be found in another column. It embodies all that is reasonably expected of a public servant.

Among the most notable successes of the Irish Party was the election of T. P. O'Connor for Liverpool and the defeat of two notorious renegades, John O'Connor Power and Sir Rowland Blennerhassett. These victories will cause satisfaction throughout Ireland.

Yesterday's despatches from Europe show the results of the English elections to have culminated in a deadlock, but there are sufficient constituencies to hear from to alter completely the present condition of affairs and Parnell may yet get the bit in the animal mouth and the reins in his hands. As to which party he will ally his force to is a question of expediency; there is no room for sentiment. Parnell's motto is: "Trust neither, but use either, or both."

The large congregation that listened to the lecture delivered by the Rev. Father Drummond last Sunday evening in St. Mary's Church show the impression the rev. gentleman has created in the minds of the people of Winnipeg since his arrival here. He has taken the intellects of the people by storm. The lecture was a very effective and intelligent reading and was given in a manner which allowed of no momentary inattention, without loss, on the part of his hearers, among whom were numerous Protestants.

Those who endeavored to take from Ald. Campbell the credit rightly due him for saving to the city nearly \$14,000 in the management of the Board of Health, must be nonplussed by the letter which appeared in the Free Press on Tuesday last. The returns for the department for the past year show an existing state of things, which have been effected in one year, is almost incredible. If Mr. Campbell's term of office has brought to light the most glaring incapacity of the old board. The attempts of his enemies to deprive him of the credit of this vast saving to the city has failed ignominiously, and his election in Ward 5 is now placed beyond a doubt. The certified statements which have been published must satisfy every fair minded voter, that the object of those who circulated contrary figures was to defeat Ald Campbell, which was certainly very dishonest on their part. Ward 5 should therefore vote en masse for Mr. Campbell on Monday, which we confidently expect they will.

An Irish exchange says that Sir Thomas Esmonde, Henry Grattan's patriotic grandson, is winning recruits for the National cause among young men from the landlord class. It is expected that the brother of Sir Thomas will join the National ranks. Both the Esmondes were educated by the Jesuit Fathers.

HIS GRACE'S LETTER.

This week we publish a very exhaustive and comprehensive letter from His Grace Archbishop Tache, on the Northwest. He has persistently refrained from saying anything on the late and unfortunate occurrences in this part of the country, but owing to the attacks of unscrupulous newspapers, which have not hesitated to credit His Grace with statements which he never gave utterance to, and moreover, have even gone so far as to accuse him and his missionaries in the Northwest with being the primary cause of the recent emeute, he finds it necessary to speak, and certainly does so in a manner that must satisfy most fair minded people that there is no better friend of the country than Archbishop Tache, as the leading paper of this part of the Dominion, "The Daily Manitoban," recently bore testimony to. It certainly goes without showing that there is no man in the Dominion who knows more concerning the Northwest than Archbishop Tache, and his letter to the people will therefore carry immense weight. He divides his paper into four chapters, viz: The Settlers, The Metis, The Indians and The Northwest, and under these different heads deals with the questions at issue, in a very comprehensive and lucid manner, giving praise where due, and unsparing where censure is deserved, which clearly shows His Grace to be profoundly indifferent as to party feeling, though many there are who unjustly accuse him of party alliance. However, this very important letter, coming from such a high authority on the matters dealt with, should be carefully read, and will no doubt be found interesting to those who desire to know "what was the cause of the rebellion," as well as by those who take an interest in the Northwest.

MUNICIPAL.

The polling day is now at hand, and it becomes the duty of every intelligent voter to elect a gentleman as mayor who will serve the city's interests best. Of the merits of the candidates now in the field we have shown clearly. Mr. Crowe has served in the council, he has shown himself possessed of the necessary qualifications necessary to fit him for the position, and the electorate are also averse to the very dishonest means adopted by the opponents of Mr. Crowe in order to secure the election of Mr. Westbrook. They attempted by false accusations against Mr. Crowe, to injure his reputation as a public servant, and as a citizen, which was certainly cowardly and therefore sufficient to condemn Mr. Westbrook in the eyes of the electorate. Apart from this Mr. Westbrook has not served in the council; he has given no practical proof of his capacity to fill the position he so anxiously craves for, and which means, if he is elected, the city must risk a year of misgovernment, which is certainly asking too much. Therefore that Mr. Crowe's name will suggest itself to every honest elector in the city is easy to be believed, and his election is therefore assured. Record your vote early and cast your ballot for Crowe.

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

The progress of this Church since its inauguration has been such as to excite the wonder and admiration of those who attend it, and we need not tell our readers of the wide popularity among his parishioners of the zealous priest, Rev. Father Cherrier, who has brought about these splendid results. There are costlier churches than the Immaculate Conception, but there are few more inspiring. Tuesday being the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of the church, the altar was very richly and tastefully decorated and the statue of our Lady looked better than we have ever seen it. In the evening Pontifical Vespers were sung by His Grace, after which the Rev. Father Drummond, of St. Boniface College, gave a sermon on the feast of the day, with his characteristic eloquence which delighted his many hearers who listened to him for the first time. Another very pleasing feature in connection with this pretty little church was the singing of the choir, which was excellent well. Comparisons are generally distasteful, but we can safely say, without fear of offending anyone, that the choir of the Immaculate Conception will compare favorably with that of other churches. There was a collection taken up in aid of the Indian Mission schools throughout the Northwest, which was a good one.

MGR. TACHE ON THE SITUATION IN THE NORTHWEST.

Exhaustive and Comprehensive Review of Affairs.

We shall soon see the end of 1885. This year has been replete with events throughout the Dominion of Canada and especially in the Canadian Northwest. The complications have been so grave, the consequences so numerous that, notwithstanding repeated solicitations to give my opinion on what has occurred I have until this day deemed it better to remain silent. From time to time newspapers have lent me utterances, but their assertions were not authorized and are not mine. I would willingly continue to remain silent, had my name not been used in a manner equally unjust and disloyal in the debates to which the attitude recently taken in the Province of Quebec has given rise. Notwithstanding my sincere desire to keep out of the way of strife and agitation, I find myself compelled to say what I think, since others persist in forcing upon me ideas which I never entertained, feelings which I repudiate.

I am no party man and I have not the slightest wish to flatter or depreciate anyone; but I love my country and desire to contribute as much as I can to its prosperity and happiness; and for the fulfillment of this duty I know that, if there is a time to be silent, there is also a time to speak, and it is with the view of promoting good that I now raise my voice.

Once decided to speak, everyone will readily agree that it is the truth that must be told, the bare truth, void of all tergiversation or evasion.

The truth, as it appears to me, is what I will affirm. I foresee that to attain the object in view I shall have to clash with susceptibilities, perhaps provoke anger. I accept beforehand the unpleasant responsibility, but on the condition that the consequences will weigh only on myself personally.

Evils and Dangers Attending the Rebellion.

During the past nine months our country has experienced shocks, misfortunes, disasters, which have been violently re-echoed all over, and sad to say, this country so dear to us was exposed to dangers, which although not surmised by the greater number, were not the less real and dreadful. As a people we have experienced profound humiliation; as men, a cry of horror escaped from our hearts at the aspect of cruel massacres; as citizens, we had to deplore civil war, which brought mourning and desolation to numerous families. Generous blood was shed, and with it abundant tears flowed. Then the scaffold was raised to receive its victims. The prison cells are closed on honorable men; men whose lives were blameless until this day. All these misfortunes, all this horror, which seemed an impossibility a year ago, have nevertheless taken place, and there is not one amongst us who has not had a share of moral or physical suffering amidst these disasters. I have had my large share of the mental sufferings which have been endured. It would be difficult to express the painful emotions, the cruel anguish, the bitter regrets I have experienced for the past year. Obligated by my position to maintain an apparent calmness which everything banished from my mind; remaining silent while there was so much to say; relying on a remedy which might have been efficacious, but which it was not in my power to apply; accepting without hesitation the inexpressible exigencies imposed by duty; being neither able nor willing to banish from my heart the affectionate sympathies of my whole life; dreading every moment complications regarding which the authorities seemed quite unconcerned, from which we so narrowly escaped and which might have brought about the complete ruin of the country. Not knowing (and this was the key of the situation) the material means that might be placed under contribution while a few hundred carbines and a few thousand cartridges sufficed to complete our ruin; the public will never know what I suffered and the apprehensions I endured.

I am, moreover, convinced that what has occurred may be repeated with an increase of all I dreaded in the past.

On the strength of this conclusion, I earnestly beseech all serious men who have at heart the happiness and prosperity of our dear Canada, to reflect on the causes which have occasioned our misfortunes.

Various Causes of the Trouble.

Minds, too superficial, alas! or too interested to take a serious and impartial view of our difficulties, consider that they have accomplished their duties as citizens by exclaiming: "Riel is the cause of all the harm, it was he who did all, he has paid for it, the country is safe now." This explanation is so unreasonable, that if it were accepted, we might expect new disturbances in the near future.

The reef on which a vessel strikes is not the only cause of the wreck. The mode of construction, the violence of the storm, the lack of numbers, or the inability of the crew, the ignorance or the negligence of the pilots, in a word, the aggregation of circumstances attending the navigation has a part in causing what is attributed to the reef. Supposing the rock on which the "Albatross" perished should be removed by explosion, that would not render the navigation of Lake Superior free from all peril. Therefore it is deceiving one's self or striving to deceive others, to throw on one

man alone, the causes of the misfortunes which we all deplore. In my estimation the responsibilities of our disasters and of our shames are attributable to several sources. They rest not only on the active agents of the rebellion and the administrations succeeding in their turn in the government of the country, but also to many other parties. The people of Canada and their rulers, while negotiating the acquisition of the Northwest Territories, considered but the extent and the riches of the vast domain of which they were taking possession. They did not comprehend the situation, because they knew little or nothing of what they needed to know. The ambiguities, the modifications, the contradictions, etc., etc., found in the statutes are evidence as to what I affirm. One of the greatest mistakes on the part of the authorities was to act in accordance with the prejudice of entire provinces by approaching the Northwest with mistrust towards all those to be found there or who were acquainted with the country. It was supposed they were coming to an ordinary land, whilst on the contrary it was completely unknown. The ignorance might have been less complete, if the information offered had been listened to. Men distinguished by their character, their position and their experience have time and again given suggestions and useful advice, but almost invariably every attempt to enlighten was disregarded. Nothing was accepted save documents prepared in the Government offices, many of which, I am sorry to say, should have been considered as unreliable.

Public Officials.

The first cause of our difficulties naturally combines with a second one. I have just suggested the idea of men in office. No doubt it is but justice to say that many of these men were qualified for the functions more or less important, to which they were appointed; but, alas! this was not so in all cases. Even important posts were assigned to men totally unqualified for the position. In my humble opinion this will be unavoidable as long as all the appointments are based exclusively on political party motives. While selecting undeserving men others perfectly apt have been dismissed, or left aside, because five, ten, or fifteen years before they were political opponents. It is sometimes supposed that there is no need to be particular for a new country, especially among the Indians. This is a most erroneous opinion. More sense, tact, and ability are needed in a new country where everything has to be organized. In a populous city or town a public official may be tolerated to a certain degree, even should he turn out to be a dolt or a fop; his betters make up for the inconveniences which would occur were he alone. In the desert or the prairie it is quite a different thing: the incapacity of an employee is so much the more apparent because he is alone. There is not the slightest doubt that if the Northwest is to be properly governed, it is necessary to be very particular in the choice of men for the different services. An indispensable qualification for all is to be civil and sympathetic with the natives and the settlers. A kind heart, a gentle word, suffice to prevent or quell dissatisfaction. Authority needs a prestige, and it is a gross error to believe that it is improved by coarseness and arrogance. On the contrary, such proceedings do a great deal of harm, and denote greater ignorance than that which is thought to belong to the illiterate.

The Settlers.

Another cause of our difficulties came from the discontent of the new settlers themselves. The Government, Colonization Societies and others have published pamphlets more or less exact on the country and its advantages. The unfortunate boom of Manitoba also got a footing in the Northwest. Many looked forward to this country as the promised land to seekers of riches with or without labor. Enticed by the allurements many people came to the Northwest. The country was not prepared to receive them in such numbers at the time. Fatigue, loneliness, seclusion, disappointments, so much the more felt that they were the less expected, were the result of a too hasty immigration, and began the series of deceptions for which it was sought to make the government entirely responsible. Real faults disposed people to credit imaginary wrongs. Thence a natural tendency to general dissatisfaction. To be avenged, very regrettable means were resorted to. The most brilliant hopes had been deceived. The fortune dreamt of was not coming. The real and numerous difficulties of a new establishment in the lone land, the absence of the family, uneasiness for the future, combined to increase the bad feeling. Then came the early frosts, Oh! what harm those frosts have done to the government and to the governed. Without saying it openly, people acted as if they considered the authorities responsible for them. Indignation arose, numerous and frequent meetings were held, eloquence to the pitch it can be carried in a constitutional country was not spared. It is, however, to be understood that no revolt against authority was intended, but an evolution of some kind was wanted, constitutional agitation and another form of it soon to follow. Suggestions more or less bold were made. It was known that in the country there were parties who would talk less but act sooner. There was no wish of shedding blood, but a strong desire to have a shedding of crowns from the public treasury. It was not considered that in sowing the wind they would reap the whirlwind. This is so true that now that the storm has subsided, notwithstanding its past violence, not a few among the settlers say: "After all we have gained by it. Something of the kind is wanted once in ten years. We were ruined but business is reviving." As a consequence everyone professes

loyalty which defies even that of their Royal Highnesses themselves.

Oh! to what depths human frailty can go! People who pushed others to rebellion, who rejoice at the advantages it brought to them, the better to dissemble their joy, clamor for vengeance and proclaim their loyalty. I presume the government knows this, but it is well that the whole country should know it in order to give a share of the responsibility to all those who deserve it.

On the other hand, I wish to be rightly understood. If there are settlers who acted a vile part in the whole affair they form the exception. The greater number of those who complained had reason to complain. They have exposed their wants, and their petitions have been heard. Now there is every reason to hope that confidence will be restored, and that if the early frosts do not prove too severe, the settlers will enjoy the prosperity they had expected. This return of prosperity seems to me all the more likely that experience persuades me that kind Providence has always in store a compensation proportionate to the misfortunes it permits to visit us. During the forty years that I have passed in the country I have often had occasion to dread the sad aspect of affairs, but in every case the same causes which excited alarm, brought about unexpected advantages.

The Metis.

In treating of the Northwest troubles, the Metis are those first thought of, and that with the result of exciting ill-feeling in some quarters, and the liveliest sympathies in others. All those acquainted with me know that I love the Metis population, and I shall always side with those who sympathize with them. Before speaking of the part taken by the Metis in the Northwest troubles, I shall here quote the words pronounced by Lord Dufferin, referring to them in his farewell discourse to Manitoba, the 29th of Sept., 1877:—

"There is no doubt that a great deal of the good feeling thus subsisting among the red men and ourselves is due to the influence and interposition of that valuable class of men the half-breed settlers and pioneers of Manitoba, (tremendous applause) who, combining as they do the hardihood, the endurance and love of enterprise generated by the strain of Indian blood within their veins, with the civilization, the instruction, and the intellectual power derived from their fathers, have preached the gospel of peace and good will, and mutual respect, with equally beneficial results, to the Indian chieftain in his lodge, and the British settler, in his shanty, (renewed applause). They have been the ambassadors between the East and the West, the interpreters of civilization and its exigencies, to the dwellers on the prairie as well as the exponents to the white man of the consideration justly due to the susceptibilities, the sensitive self-respect, the prejudices, the innate craving for justice of the Indian race (continued applause). In fact they have done for the colony what otherwise would have been left unaccomplished, and have introduced between the white population and the red man a traditional feeling of unity and friendships, which, but for them, it might have been impossible to establish." (cheers).

If the above words had been better understood, and the line of conduct they seem to prescribe better followed, the country would not have to deplore the evils that have befallen us. When Lord Dufferin visited Manitoba, happily for the honor of the Metis, there were no palace cars. He had to journey according to the then mode of travelling in the country, and he quite naturally travelled with the Metis. With them he crossed the plains and the forest; he mounted the Red River cart and the birch bark canoe; he did not disdain to speak with his guides, knowing the French language he needed no interpreter; being intelligent he conceived a just idea of the population; a statesman, he said to the country and to the advisers of Her Majesty's representatives: "Here is what the Metis were in the past, their usefulness, some of their noble qualities; see how you should treat them in the future."

The suggestions made by the great diplomatist were not understood. It was thought more advisable to continue in the strain of the happy soldier, who entered Fort Garry long after the Metis had opened its gates for him. Colonel Wolsely had styled the Metis "banditti and cowards." This stupid assertion, and it is the way in which it was characterized by the then Minister of Militia, found its way in all directions.

Several newspapers repeated it; officials of all grades received its impulse and instead of granting the Metis the justice to which they were entitled the most elementary prescriptions were overlooked in regard to them. Instead of treating them as gentlemen treat everyone, they were met in too many instances, only with insolence and roughness enough to wound the bluntest susceptibilities. A rude and scornful "I don't talk French" was often the only answer to be obtained to legitimate requests. It was forgotten that being the natives of the country, they had special titles to consideration. Even in their own interests people should have remembered that the Metis, being the natural link between the Indians and the Whites, their assistance was needed. Instead of recalling what Lord Dufferin so justly said in speaking of the peaceful condition of the country, it was thought more becoming to invoke what was called the Canadian Indian Policy. This was merely imaginary, as Canada had just begun relations with our Indians.

The sad events of this year dispel all doubt as to the fact that the Metis controlled the latter by their peaceful attitude. As soon as the first rumor reached the Indians of a conflict between the