



CURRENT COMMENT

Decidedly amusing is the conduct of some of the Anglican friends of those who have left the Anglican church of St. Michael, Shoreditch, and are now attending the services at St. Mary's (Catholic) church, Moorfields. It is said that some Anglicans have been circulating amongst their friends (seeking admission to the Catholic Church) the striking statement that by going to St. Mary's and embracing the faith taught and practised there they were forsaking the Catholic (meaning the Established) Church and becoming Protestants. Sudden as may have seemed this "Great Conversion Movement," yet is it not without stability. It is estimated that over 300 of the congregation of St. Michael's attended St. Mary's on Sunday morning. At the evening service the church was literally crammed by, those who, according to present appearances, will in the near future be counted amongst the faithful under the spiritual care of the Very Rev. Canon William Fleming, M.R.

The eleven o'clock Mass was sung by Rev. Father Theed, formerly a Church of England clergyman, and the sermon preached by the Rev. Father Chase, who also was previously an Anglican minister. On Monday evening the church was again crowded; several "new-comers," young and old, were noticed amongst the congregation. The Rev. Father Chase preached the sermon and gave solemn Benediction. After the service over one hundred of the congregation who wish to be received into the Church gave their names, requesting immediate instruction, and already a great many children are attending the Catholic schools of the parish. On Tuesday evening St. Mary's was filled at overflowing. Father Chase again occupied the pulpit, and the sermon was followed by Benediction of the Adorable Sacrament.

Judging by the proceedings of the Gamey case it would seem that there is nothing like close watching to improve the morals of a certain class of men. There are people who seem to be laboring under the delusion that to avoid the appearance of evil means to cover up your rascality. Just how some people succeed so admirably in differentiating personal honor from political morality is strangely mysterious, but true it is that men are to be found not infrequently who in their private life are excellent examples of unswerving integrity and yet will stoop to the most contemptible tactics toward the attainment of a political end for themselves or their party. These statements are an indulgence in mere generalities and apply to no particular person or political party, for observation impels one to believe that they are all whitewashed with the same brush. Little wonder men speak disdainfully of political life; so many enter the field without a blemish, so few return without a taint. In the present case a most serious accusation has been made, but has not yet been proved. Until convincing proof asserts itself we must consider the accused innocent. Let us hope, for the honor of that body of men whom the country has honored with such grave responsibility, that future events may prove the soundness of our belief in the innocence of the accused. Meanwhile a diligent investigation is strenuously pushed forward by the opposite party; nor can we rest perfectly assured that this investigation is being urged from a sense of justice and vindication of principal so much as for the harassment of the political opponent. However this may be, complete and open investigation is the only course to be pursued. Happy are we in the thought that few indeed are the precedents upon which this investigation may be based. Surely we sound the sentiments of every true Canadian in the earnest hope that very many years may pass without the possibility of again exposing the foul hand of bribery in our midst.

While the eastern province is busy with its parliamentary house-cleaning might it not be well to take a look into the corners of our little civic home lest some dust may have gathered there? And may that look consist of an enquiry

Persons and Facts

M. Combes has dissolved the committee of "fabrique" of the Church of St. George at Lyons and ordered the election of a new one. The parish priest is in rebellion against his Bishop, and the probable consequence of M. Combes' action will be the election of a committee more in favor of the inordinate cleric! That is how the Government understand the union of the Church and State in France. —Catholic Times.

The Sicilian Bishops, at a recent meeting in Palermo, resolved to inaugurate a course of social studies in their seminaries, in order to prepare the young clergy to carry out

was cared for on that occasion by Giuseppe Mero, a lay brother of the Society of Jesus and infirmarian of the Jesuit college in the city of Benevento. When Cardinal Pecci became Pope, he sent a special blessing to the good brother who had pulled him through so severe an illness, and who was then afflicted with blindness in St. Beuno's College, North Wales.

The most recent report of the Anti-Slavery Society of Italy, which is under the auspices of the Holy See, states that one hundred slaves—44 men and 56 women—have been freed by its agents in Tripoli during 1902.

A new catacomb has been discovered in Rome. It dates from the second half of the fourth cen-

one: That of the Venerable Joseph Anchieta, professed priest in the Society of Jesus. Five other causes were also heard in part: Those of the Venerable Gesualdo da Reggio, O.S.F.C., the Venerable Marcellin Champagnat, Marist priest and Founder of the Little Brethren of Mary; the Venerable Marie-Madeleine Postel, Foundress of the Christian Schools of Mercy; the Venerable Therese de Saint Augustin and companions, Carmelites, known as the Martyrs of Compiegne; and the Venerable Diomira of the Incarnate Word, O.S.F.C.

The death of Duke Nicholas of Wurtemberg, which took place on Feb. 23rd, places a Catholic next in succession to the throne of that German State. The present King is not a Catholic, nor was the duke just dead, but Duke Philip, who becomes heir apparent, professes the true faith. It is one of the credits of Germany that religion does not necessarily interfere with kingship. Saxony is not a Catholic land by half, but her ruler is Catholic. Wurtemberg is likewise comparatively a non-Catholic State, yet should Duke Philip survive the present king his faith will not impose on him any disqualification.

The Revs. Bertrand L. Conway, C.S.P., and John Harney, C.S.P., conducted a three weeks' mission to non-Catholics, recently, at St. Patrick's Church, Kansas City, Mo., the Very Rev. Thomas F. Lillis pastor. Seventy-seven converts were made, and hundreds of neglectful Catholics received the Sacraments.

The Abbe Houtin's book, "La Question Biblique chez les Catholiques de France au XIX Siecle," has been condemned by his ecclesiastical superior, the Bishop of Angers, and its circulation forbidden.

Brandon Notes.

Mrs. R. F. Chapman returned on Thursday from a short visit to Portage.

High Mass was celebrated at St. Augustine's church on Tuesday morning at eight o'clock in honor of St. Patrick, Patron of Ireland, and the Irish.

Mr. James Murphy, of the C.P.R. Department, Winnipeg, spent Sunday with his parents here.

Mrs. T. H. Taylor is visiting friends at Douglas.

The house question is becoming a serious problem in Brandon, property is selling at a high figure, and people are offering almost any amount for rooms or dwellings centrally located. Mr. A. C. Jeffrey has bought the lots on the corner of Sixth street and Victoria avenue for \$950.

On Sunday the blessing of the beautiful new statue of St. Joseph took place at High Mass. This is the first ornament which has been purchased for the new church, and Rev. Father Godts relates how when a grand church for Brandon was looked upon and spoken of as an impossibility; he, with all confidence placed the matter in the hands of St. Joseph, to whom we certainly already owe a mark of gratitude for the success already attained. Let us hope and pray that this great Saint may help us to the end.

On Thursday morning the feast of St. Joseph High Mass was celebrated at eight o'clock.



ament a possible irregularity in letting the contract for the firemen's summer uniform? We understand that the contract was given to a tailor whose tender was \$19.75 a suit, while the tender of another reputable tailor conforming with all the requirements was seventeen dollars. This means in the forty-four suits a difference of one hundred and twenty-one dollars. Is the city so heavily burdened with riches that it must adopt this means of unloading itself? Why accept a library from Carnegie? Why not insist upon building it ourselves? Why allow streets to be in bad repair? Why tax the citizens so heavily? Is this action taken because of surplus wealth, or is it because of debt manipulation within the secret chamber? It would be painful to think that racial or religious sentiment should enter into such a matter; yet we understand that the controlling influence in this instance was exercised by Aldermen Barclay and Harvey, names that smack of the same national calibre as that of the man who got the contract. This is just a start. If no answer is made to our enquiry we may blow the trumpet harder.

the Christian Democratic instructions of the Pope.

The Holy Father has conferred on Mr. Merry del Val the decoration of the Order of Christ, in recognition of his eminent services during the long period he was Spanish Ambassador to the Holy See. By special desire of the Pope Cardinal Rampolla presented the decoration at a gathering in the Spanish College, at which Mgr. Merry del Val, Archbishop of Nicaea, son of the Ambassador, was among the audience.

The Archduchess Elizabeth, mother of Queen Christina of Spain, died at Vienna on Saturday. The funeral took place yesterday, the 19th inst. Queen Christina and her daughter, the Infanta Maria Teresa, went to Vienna on Friday night.

When the Holy Father received the pilgrims of Benevento, which was, before 1860, one of the Papal States, he reminded the oldest among the pilgrims that, in 1838, when he was Governor of that district, he was very seriously ill. He

in clay, who probably lived on the spot. This catacomb promises to be peculiarly interesting because its existence has hitherto not been indicated in any known memorial.

Among the proceedings printed in the Acts of the Second International Congress of Christian Archaeology, held in Rome in April 1902, but of which the printed Acts did not appear till last month, figures a paper read by Dr. William J. D. Croke, Rome correspondent of several Catholic journals in the United States, attempting to identify St. Palladius, the early preacher of the Faith in Ireland, as the same in person with St. Patrick, the national Apostle. Signor Parisotti also furnishes a paper trying to give a new solidity to the cult of and the legends of St. George, the Patron of England.

At a meeting of the Congregation of Rites held on Feb. 10 one of the causes considered was that of the Venerable Claude de la Colombiere, S.J., in which two miracles attributed to him were discussed. Another cause was a South American