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THE CURE OF ARS

Humble Peasant Priest Who is About to be Beatified.

(Rev. F. X. M. McSweeney in Standard and Times.)

A very interesting event will take place in Rome on January 8th next. Pius X., the first Pope in three hundred years chosen from the ranks of labor to this the first dignity in the world, is going to beatify, that is, raise to the honors of the altar, another laborer, the Cure d'Ars, the first parish priest who, remaining in this office till the end and dying a natural death, obtained official recognition of sainthood.

This enrollment among the saints is a legal act, requiring long, careful and expensive preliminaries, such as taking of testimony regarding the life of the party, salaries of clerks, printing, correspondence, fees of counsel, honoraria of judges, etc. No one can be beatified, no matter how holy his life may seem to have been, unless miracles are performed through his intercession after his death, and those miracles must stand the closest scrutiny, made with the aid of medical and other specialists, as to their exceeding the powers of nature and being referable to God alone, who thus testifies to the present holiness and entrance into glory of His servant and friend.

The process, in fact, is so long, so complicated and so costly that it is usually only organizations such as the Jesuits, the Franciscans, etc., that can as a rule, who preserve the records and traditions of those of their members who have been remarkable for exceptional holiness. Nay, even some of those "orders," as they are called, seem to object to the distraction incidental to promoting the canonization of their heroes; and so the rigid Carthusian monks, though belonging, as Cardinal Vaughan says, "to the highest state of contemplatives, have but few canonized saints," and the great Benedictine order has had no saint canonized for five hundred years, nor the Sisters of Charity during their glorious existence of two and a half centuries.

Be it as it may, the poor, lonely parish priest of a village has evidently slight chance of reaching this summit of earthly glory, and this, with the fact that another parish priest, the first in many centuries raised to the throne of Peter, is the instrument in the case, will, I trust, make a sketch of his career interesting to our readers.

John Baptist Vianney, as he was called, was of peasant birth and upbringing. His character was excellent, and he was admitted to study for the ministry; but his talents were so inferior that he was thrice rejected by the examiners. His moral qualities, however, were so highly spoken of that at last the Bishop consented to ordain him, and sent him as assistant to the pastor who had strongly recommended his elevation to the priesthood. His life was of the most heroic kind. For forty years after assuming spiritual charge of the little French village he entered the small, poor and ill-furnished church every morning at 2 o'clock, and remained there—with necessary interruptions, for outside duties—praying, preaching and ministering to the spiritual wants of his people and the multitudes that in the course of time came to him from all parts until 11 o'clock at night. The ceiling of the little edifice is about 15 feet high; the width of the nave about 20, with some 10 or 15 feet extra on either side under the clerestories, where are four side chapels; the length from door to sanctuary rail about 90 feet. A little pulpit rises at the side of the sanctuary about 6 feet from the floor. This always attracts the attention of priests, and makes them realize the extreme mortification of the cure, who, of course, suffered more from the thick atmosphere the higher he was raised in the crowded and ill-ventilated building.

The sacrifice of the left of the altar is a little room about 8 feet square, and it was here that every day for forty years, from before dawn to near midnight he heard confessions. The confessional is still to be seen, and he must have made it himself, for a plainer and more

uncomfortable stool of repentance before confessing their sins, and the holy man himself suffered as they did and more. Yet the highest intellects of Europe knelt there before the shepherd's son; the beauty and culture of France, Italy, Ireland, England, Spain, Germany, Poland, prostrated themselves here after hours or even days of waiting to obtain the boon of telling their sins and pouring their troubles into the sympathetic, merciful ear of the humble village pastor.

Listen to the testimony that some of the visitors to Ars give of their experiences. It is taken from the life of the cure by Father Monnin, one of his assistants when the increasing work made it necessary for him to have them. "We once heard," writes the abbe, "a distinguished but somewhat skeptical philosopher exclaim in his enthusiasm: 'I do not believe anything like this has been seen since the stable at Bethlehem.' A celebrated poet was so overcome with emotion at the cure's presence that the words escaped him unawares: 'I have never seen God so near.' Another distinguished pilgrim said: 'The Cure of Ars is the very model of the childhood which Jesus loved; therefore is it that God is with him.'"

One of the most famous painters of France stayed about several days trying to get a perfect sketch of his features. "It has been one of the great blessings of my life," he said afterwards, "to know of Cure d'Ars. We must have seen the saints to be able to paint them." "What did I see at Ars?" replied a prominent author to one who inquired of him. "I saw John in the wilderness! I was one of the eighty thousand people or so that went there last year. People tell me of marvelous things that go on at Ars. I doubt not the power of God; it is as great in the nineteenth century as in the first day of Christianity. I am convinced that the prayers of the holy priest can obtain surprising and even miraculous cures; but to recognize the presence of the supernatural there I have no need of all this. The great miracle of Ars is the laborious and penitential life of its cure. That a man can do what he does and do it every day without growing weary or sinking under it is what surpasses my comprehension; this is to me the miracle of miracles."

The cure was born in 1786, and died in 1859. He was declared venerable in 1872, and now, forty-five years after his death, when all danger of undue influence has been removed by the deaths of those who knew and might be disposed to favor him excessively, he is to be raised to the altar on the cold record only of his virtues. In spite of all his ascetic habits in what regards eating, drinking, sleeping and exercise in the open air, he lived in constant, almost uninterrupted, mental and bodily activity to the age of 73 years, and full of days and works departed to the Lord. His life has been written by Father Monnin, as I have said, and also by an English Protestant lady, Geradine. Both the books make delightful reading. Indeed, there is no reading more delightful than the lives of those real heroes and admirable men and women, friends and favored children of God, the saints.

I will not anticipate further the profit and pleasure in store for those who procure one of the lives of the cure, with its account of his plain food, poor lodging and attire and, under simplicity, nay, hard poverty, of his long career, of his wondrous influence for good and the marvels that God worked in his favor, but will close my letter with this statement: I visited the house in which the cure lived and died, and saw some of his blood preserved in a small vial. It was perfectly liquid, as one perceived when the vessel was moved, and had the rich, dark look, with the bubbles, I noticed in that which St. Januarius shed fifteen hundred years ago for the truth, and which liquefies annually in Naples on September 19. My visit to Ars was on the first Sunday of October, 1880, twenty-one years after the cure's death.

STRATFORD CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. J. P. Mabey, K.C., Stratford's leading lawyer, has decided to locate permanently in Toronto. He has taken up partnership with one of Toronto's leading law firms. Mr. and Mrs. Mabey's many friends here will regret to hear of their intended departure from the Classic City. That Mr. Mabey's success is assured we have no doubt. His record as a lawyer of prominence is well known throughout Canada. Stratford citizens wish Mr. and Mrs. Mabey every success in their new home. The Register joins in welcoming Mr. and Mrs. Mabey to Toronto.

The nominations for Separate School Trustees for 1905-'06 took place in the board room of the city hall on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1904. Dr. J. A. Devlin, returning officer, received the following nominations and declared the result to be as follows: The trustees are: Avon Ward, Rev. Chas. B. McGee, P.P., E. J. Kneitt, Falstaff Ward, John Duggan, Hamlet Ward, M. J. Deylin, Romeo Ward, T. F. Quirk, Shakespeare Ward, John Nelligan.

Mr. Frank J. Carlin, of Chicago, is visiting at the parental roof, Hiberno street.

Miss Kathleen Sullivan of Chicago, authoress, is home on a visit to her parents on Forman Ave.

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THE FUTURE OF IRELAND

T. P. O'Connor appraises the immediate prospect in view of Land Purchase

(Written for The Register.)

The present condition of Ireland is occupying a good deal of attention and a number of magazine articles on that subject have recently appeared written by prominent Irishmen. In the October Cosmopolitan is an article on "The Immediate Future of Ireland," by Mr. F. G. O'Connor, M.P. In this article, as in all of a recently, considerable space is devoted to the emigration problem, and it is easy to see that the Irish leaders are discouraged by their failure to stem the tide of emigration which has not once ceased flowing during the past sixty years. Mr. O'Brien presents the question upon which he writes from two points of view, that of the optimist and that of the pessimist. He says: "The optimist could point to the long succession of victories which the Irish cause has gained since the memorable hour, when Michael Davitt, standing on the site of the cottage in which he was born and which he had seen as it was being burnt to the ground as at four years of age he left the shores of his native country, raised the standard of the Land League, and since Parnell, then a rising young, parliamentarian of uncertain future, rallied to the new movement and brought it on the floor of the House of Commons. When Davitt and Parnell thus started the new campaign for the reconquest by the Celt of the land of Ireland, the tenant was still a serf. He could be evicted at the caprice of his landlord, he could have his rent raised, he could be driven to the poll to vote for his oppressor. The representation of Ireland was still in the hands of a small minority of the people, and when Parnell raised the flag of the new movement in the House of Commons, he had not thirty members out of the entire one hundred and one who were ready to follow him. The local government of the country was still entirely in the hands of the landlord minority. In the courthouse they formed, or they created the law, before which the poor of classes between them and the tenants was tried. They had the entire local government of the counties in their hands. Now the representation of Ireland, election after election, five times within these twenty years, have returned more than eighty out of the one hundred and one to fight strenuously for Home Rule; the landlords have no power to evict or to raise rent; he has been driven from every place of power; in the county councils which have taken his place as the governing body of the Irish counties he has scarcely a representative outside of one or two counties. In the north-east of Ireland. Last year, finally deprived of social, of political and of class power, the landlord got his final chance of giving up his last rights to the property he had so grossly and so cruelly mismanaged, and it is now in his power to draw on the British Treasury for all the money that is necessary to buy out his rights. This is a great advance made in a quarter of a century. Now let Mr. O'Connor show us the prospect from the pessimist's point of view. "Taking the last point first, namely, the Land Purchase Act of Last year, the pessimist can draw attention to the fact that the fight over the land cannot be said to be finished so long as the amount the landlords want to get, and that which the tenants are ready to give remain so wide apart as they are at the present moment. But whether the minority was or was not some months ago, the fact is indisputable that at the present moment the landlords are in the worst of moods. Unfortunately on some of the estates the tenants have played into their hands, and we have the astonishing result of the Land Purchase Act of last year, which gave the landlords the inducement of four or five years' additional purchase at the hands of the state, that the landlords instead of leasing, have enormously increased the number of years' purchase they demand for their holdings. There are cases where landlords have asked and have even got twenty-nine years purchase—including the bonus—for land which a few years ago they were ready to sell for eighteen years' purchase. And the pessimist can go on to point out that in spite of all those manifold and vast victories won by the tenant in the last quarter of a century, the last state of Ireland may seem to be worse than the first. Lunacy is increasing; the marriage rate is lower in Ireland than in almost any country in Europe. High above and beyond all these things, which are symptoms of grave national decadence, there is the appalling fact that the drain of the population goes on continually. And finally, still continuing his protest the pessimist may call attention to the present condition in English public opinion. The Irish as Catholics have had to take a position on the education question which is very offensive to English Nonconformists, and English nonconformity formed the backbone of the British movement in favor of Home Rule. Their strong hostility to a war, which they regarded as irreligious, brought down on Irishmen the hatred of another section of the English people during the fight with the Boers. And finally, Lord Roseberry, once the head of the Liberal Party and once a strong Home Ruler, has made speeches the main purpose of which seemed to be the abandonment of Home Rule by the Liberal Party. It must be confessed that Mr. O'Connor has made out a strong case from the pessimist's point of view; the greed of the landlords which prevents an agreement between them and their tenants settling on a fair price which shall be paid for the land, the cooling of enthusiasm for Home Rule on the part of Liberals, and the emigration problem which threatens to dissipate and nullify all the victories that have been gained during the past twenty-five years. The author goes on, however, to announce himself as looking at the matter from the point of view of the optimist. He mentions in support of his view the following facts: the unwieldiness of the landlords whose extortionate demands he expects will arouse a storm of popular resentment and then, in their fright, they will considerably lessen

their demands; the Irish people are themselves united for the first time since the death of Parnell, and lastly, a change of government which the writer of the article believes is certain to take place at the next election, and which government, he thinks, will be in favor of Home Rule. He also enumerates as a factor in the question the present friendly feeling existing between the United States and Great Britain. He believes that, rather than incur the resentment and active dislike of the Irish in the United States, the English people would be willing to grant a reasonable share of Home Rule to Ireland. The article closes with the following sentiment: "With our population fleeing from our shores after all our heart-breaking delays, with the desperate situation of our country, with centuries behind us of struggle, of oppression, of waiting, we cannot allow any party to regard our demand as one of those vague ideals which men dream about and do not seek to realize."

W. O'C.

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OBITUARY

MRS. JAMES BOLAND.

At the family residence in Camp, Bedford on the 16th ult., Anna Booker, relict of the late James Boland, departed this life at the age of 89 years. Mrs. Boland was one of the oldest and most respected residents of this locality. She was born in the County of Monaghan, Ireland, in January, 1816, married her late husband, James Boland, in Ireland in 1839, and came to the city of Kingston in 1842, where her husband was employed as bookkeeper during the building of the Artillery barracks. They moved from Kingston to the Trent River district in 1844, at which time he was employed on the Board of Works, and shortly afterwards he received the appointment of postmaster at Ranney Falls, a position which he held for some years. Mr. Boland died in 1855. Surviving the late Mrs. Boland are five children—four daughters and one son, viz., Mary Ann, Olivia and Jane, residing here; Mrs. Keegan of Strathcona, Alberta; and James Boland of Detroit, Mich.

When Mr. and Mrs. Boland moved into Seymour, the site on which Campbellford now stands, was a forest, no bridge spanned the river, and the settlers used to ford the river where the Rathburn mill now stands. Full of years and enjoying the respect of the community in which she lived, this good old lady passed away peacefully, fortified by the last sacraments of Holy Mother Church. The funeral cortege proceeded to the Roman Catholic Church of this town on the 19th ult., where a solemn high requiem mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Whibbs, parish priest of Campbellford. After mass Father Whibbs delivered an eloquent sermon in eulogy of the virtues of the deceased. The funeral, which was largely attended, proceeded to the Roman Catholic cemetery, where all that was mortal of this good lady was laid at rest. R.I.P.

The Religious Life

Peterboro, Jan. 3.—At Mount St. Joseph to-day His Lordship Bishop O'Connor performed the ceremony by which nine postulants received the habit of the Sisters of St. Joseph. He was assisted by Rev. Father Kline of Brock, in Toronto Diocese; Rev. Father O'Sullivan of Victoria road, and the clergy of St. Peter's Cathedral. The names of the postulants in the world and religion are:

Miss Bridget Ryan, Peterboro—Sister Mary Celestine.
Miss Anna Phelan, Pembroke—Sister Mary Hildegard.
Miss Sarah Donlon, Sault Ste. Marie—Sister Mary Regis.
Miss Elizabeth Markle, Thessalon—Sister Mary Constance.
Miss Gertrude Markle, Thessalon—Sister Mary Marberta.
Miss Mary Lonergan, Warkworth—Sister Mary Mercedes.
Miss Helen Duci, Campbellford—Sister Mary Ursula.
Miss Alice McCabe, Grafton—Sister Mary Mildred.
Miss Mary Daly, Beaverton—Sister Mary Christina.

Intercolonial Railway Calendar

The Intercolonial Railway Calendar has for years been the standard of typical Canadian design and attractiveness. In the 1905 calendar just to hand the railway's trade mark, the familiar moose head, has again been adopted against a background of bird's-eye maple, making a most effective combination. No railway advertising done in Canada is more effective from a national standpoint than the calendar designing of the Intercolonial Railway.

Collections for the African Missions

In all the churches, and at all the masses on Friday the Feast of the Epiphany, the collection taken up at the offertory will be in aid of the African Missions.

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Female Teacher wanted for SS. No. 1, Nichol. Duties commence after holidays. State salary and experience. Address Michael Duggan, Marden P.O., Ont.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the matter of the estate of Thomas Breen, late of the Township of York, in the County of York, Province of Ontario, farmer, deceased.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to R.S.O. 1897, Chap. 129, Sec. 38, that all persons having claims against the estate of Thomas Breen, late of the Township of York, in the County of York, and Province of Ontario, farmer, deceased, who died on or about the seventeenth day of May, A.D. 1904, are hereby required on or before the 16th day of January, A.D. 1905, to send by post prepaid or to deliver to Messrs. McBrady & O'Connor, Canada Life Building, 46 King street west, Toronto, solicitors for the Executors of the Estate of the deceased, their names and addresses with a full statement of particulars of their claims and the nature of the securities (if any) held by them, duly verified by statutory declaration.

And take notice further that after the said 16th day of January, A.D. 1905, the said Executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which they shall then have had notice, and the said Executors will not be liable for the said assets or any part thereof, to any person or persons of whose claim or claims notice shall not have been received by the said Executors or their solicitors at the time of such distribution.

Dated at Toronto this 10th day of December, A.D. 1904.

McBRADY & O'CONNOR,
Solicitors for Executors.

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