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CURRENT COMMENT

NOTICE

A mistake has occurred in the number of the last issue of the Northwest. Those who keep the paper on request to note that the paper appeared on Nov. 5, the number Nov. 12 should have been 5 and but the mistake having occurred, remedy it only by repeating number. There will thus be two numbers, No. 6, to be differentiated by the No. 6, Nov. 12, and No. 6, Nov. 19.

W. E. Blake, the well-known publisher and furnisher of church supplies, 602 Queen Street west, Toronto, writes us a manly and satisfactory explanation of the extraordinary French circulars, which we held up to ridicule in our issue on the 22nd ult. It appears that he was deceived by the pretensions of a young man recently taken into his employ. This plausible fellow pretended that he knew French quite well, and as Mr. Blake was at that very time ordered away by his doctor for necessary rest from business cares, he could not verify the pretensions of the new clerk, under whose directions those unfortunate circulars were printed. This mistake of misplaced confidence is a matter of keen regret to Mr. Blake, and he is now having a proper translation of the circulars printed. He thinks we have done him "almost irreparable harm," but this we consider a very natural exaggeration of his painful distress at so humiliating a discovery. In publishing extracts from those circulars we yielded to the repeated requests of several prominent French-speaking priests of this diocese, who, having received these circulars, were indignant at what seemed to them a shameful indifference to the claims of their beautiful language and a ridiculous travesty thereof.

"The Catholic World" for this month, reviewing Father Tournibize's "From Doubt to Faith," says: "Father Tournibize's suggestion that there was also a lurking immorality hidden among Renan's motives, contains a most unfortunate charge. It is too bad also that our author indulges in the unseemly gratification of calling Renan a peacock." Severe criticism of the Church's most orthodox defenders, and praise of her most popular enemies, that double aspect of Liberal Catholicism or "Americanism," is easily discernible in the foregoing quotation. That Renan was profoundly immoral many of his own writings testify. When a man in his old age boasts of having abolished sin, extols the holy rights of the flesh and publishes under his own name so lascivious a book as "L'Abbesse de Jouarre," his critics are perfectly justified in suggesting that a "lurking immorality" was one of the dominant motives of his literary life. To call him a peacock is simply a terse portraiture of the egotism, vanity and colossal pride which form the warp and woof of all his so-called philosophical works. Brunetiere, Eugene Tavernier, and quite recently (Etudes, Oct. 20, 1904) Georges Longhaye, give ample quotations from Renan, showing him up as a learned trifler, who despises the common herd, sneers at everything holy and true, makes out that truth is a combination of contradictions and that God is in process of evolution by the development of such men as Ernest Renan. His supposed learning is flouted by those German pundits before whom he kotowed in vain. His only merit is his graceful style, but even there, the best critics say he is at fault in that he has foisted upon plain French words a double meaning which is the inevitable reflex of his natural duplicity. They stamp his method as "a hypocritical style." In fact, ironical hypocrisy is the groundwork of his character.

From another book review in the same number of the "Catholic World" we gather that M. Julien de Narfou's "Pie X" must be a very unreliable biography of the present Pope. The reviewer is far from saying so. He calls it "as fascinating a composition as has come to this magazine for a long time." But the patronizing tone which dilates on the Holy Father's kindness and ignores his astonishing intrepidity, and the praise of

M. Julien de Narfou's assertion that "Americanism" was simply a myth, which is a distinct slur on the sagacity of Leo XIII., betray the animus of the reviewer and the reviewed.

We may apply to "Americanism" what Father Searle, the Superior General of the Paulists says of a certain other dangerous entity, in an excellent article on spiritism in the same issue of the "Catholic World." "St. Peter tells us," he writes, "in the words selected by the Church for the beginning of Complin, that 'the devil, as a roaring lion, goeth about, seeking whom he may devour.' But he does not mean that a lion is always roaring. If he did, there would not be much difficulty in avoiding him. When the lion is waiting for his prey, he takes good care not to roar." He lies very quiet, and hides himself. So does the devil. He wishes to pass himself off for something merely natural, and quite harmless." The same idea was expressed some fifty years ago by a French writer, who said that the masterpiece of Satan's policy in the nineteenth century was to persuade men that he did not exist, so as the more successfully lure them into his kingdom of everlasting horror. This was the favorite defence of Jansenism, posing as primitive Christianity. Luther himself continued to proclaim his devotion to Catholic principles long after he had nailed to the door of the Wittenberg church his 95 propositions. Every error denies its own erroneousness.

With keen good sense does Father Searle expose the credulity of believers in spiritism. "Strangely enough, it never seems to occur to spiritists that the phenomena, which they quite reasonably ascribe to spiritual intervention from the unseen world, may be due to other beings than those in whose names they are produced. They seem to labor under the strange delusion that no bodiless spirit could ever, by any possibility, tell a lie. If you grant that the phenomena are really produced by spirits, you seem to them to grant their whole religion. But we know, or ought to know, that the devil is the father of lies, and that the mere proof, however conclusive it might be, that a revelation comes from a purely spiritual source, is no guarantee whatever of its truth; and the possibility, at least of serious error in such a revelation, ought, one would think, to be evident even to them. They may, indeed, claim that many things told them are true; but again, it does not seem to occur to them that evil spirits may have great knowledge, and that they can tell the truth when it suits their purpose; which they do, of course, in order that we may believe their lies as well." This is one of the clearest refutations we know of the "strange delusion" underlying all faith in the appearance of spirits not tried by the Church's standards. St. Theresa used to say that not one in a hundred so-called apparitions is true, or, if true, not one in a hundred is from a good spirit.

Clerical News.

His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface left on Monday to spend the week at St. Rose du Lac.

Rev. Father Tourangeau, O.M.I., late parish priest of St. Sauveur, Quebec, has been appointed Provincial of the Oblates for Eastern Canada.

On the First Friday in November, in the octave of the feast of All Saints and All Souls, the venerable convert-priest, Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. De Costa, died in St. Vincent's Hospital, New York. He was born in Charlestown, Mass., in 1831, graduated from Boston University, was for thirty-eight years the pastor of St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church in New York, became a Catholic in 1899, and was ordained a priest last year. It is estimated that he had written more than thirty religious and historical works. Late in life, his active and enquiring mind found happiness and peace in the one fold of the Catholic Church. After the death of his wife a few years ago, he also asked and obtained admission to the ranks of the sacred priesthood, and was

able to offer up, before his death, the holy sacrifice of the Mass. May he rest in peace!—*Sacred Heart Review.*

By the death of Archbishop Elder, the Nestor of the American Hierarchy, Archbishop Moeller, who was coadjutor "cum jure successionis," becomes Metropolitan of the Cincinnati province.

The Most Rev. Dr. Redwood, New Zealand's Archbishop, who has been for some time touring in Ireland, is accompanied in all his travels by a rare companion for an Archbishop—a violin. A very expensive musical instrument it is, and Dr. Redwood has charmed many a select audience of ecclesiastics with his playing, which is said to be delightful.

Rev. Father Drummond, S.J., will lecture before St. John's Literary Society on Monday evening next. Subject: How to acquire a good style in writing and speaking. He will also lecture on Tuesday next in St. Mary's School on "Reminiscences of Travel."

Rev. Father Bouchard, of the St. Albert diocese, was a guest of the Oblates of St. Mary's this week.

Rev. Father Rosseau, of Laurier, visited the Jesuit Fathers of St. Boniface College early this week.

The Very Rev. Dr. M. F. Fallon, rector of Holy Angels' Church, of Buffalo, N.Y., has been appointed to the important office of the Provincial of the Order of the Oblate Fathers for the Province of United States. Dr. Fallon received the official information of his appointment from the Superior-General of the Order of Mary Immaculate, the Rev. Father Augier, now located in Belgium. The Provincial House of the Order is, by the Edict of the Superior-General, transferred from Lowell, Mass., to Buffalo. The Very Rev. Dr. Fallon is but 37 years old, and is the youngest priest who has ever been chosen as Provincial of the Oblate Fathers in America.

By the death of Archbishop Elder, of Cincinnati, Most Rev. John J. Williams, Archbishop of Boston, becomes the dean of the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in the United States. He is in his 83rd year, having been born in April 27, 1822. Archbishop Williams still retains a remarkable degree of strength, despite his many years. With the passing of years he does not change one iota from his methods. He rises early each day, celebrates Mass in his private Chapel at 7, and after breakfast begins the duties of the day. He retires about 9.30 each night the year through. His claim to the deanship of the hierarchy is by more than a dozen years. His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, is the next oldest of the hierarchy, being slightly more than 70 years old, having been born July 23rd, 1834.

Persons and Facts

Since the 8th inst., the weather has been delightfully mild. Occasionally the nights were frosty, but the days were often as warm as in the late spring.

A letter has appeared from Mr. John Redmond, M.P., to Mr. Patrick Ford warning Irish Americans against Sir Horace Plunkett's "endeavour to undermine the Irish National Movement under the guise of aiding Irish industries."

In relation to the sad death of the youthful Princess of the Asturias, the Infanta Maria de las Mercedes, it is interesting, writes Mrs. C. E. Jeffery, to read the following particulars: "After having been embalmed, the body of the Princess was attired in the Carmelite habit by the hands of her mother, assisted by the ladies of honour; after which the members of the royal family kept watch all night in the *chappelle ardente*." The sympathy of all those who love Spain, and who revere the Queen mother for the example of fervent piety and devotion to the Catholic Faith which she has always set, will go out to her in her great sorrow. "Catholic Times."

The John Welch Mathematical Bursary at the University of Edinburgh has been won by Francis Muir, of Stonyhurst College.

In the College Hall, St. Francis Xavier's Liverpool, on Wednesday, Oct. 26, Dr.

Kuno Meyer delivered, under the auspices of the Gaelic League, a deeply interesting lecture on "The Future of the Irish Language," Mr. T. Burke presiding. He traced the growth of the Hungarian language and literature in the last century, and earnestly pleaded for the establishment of an Irish National Academy in Dublin such as the Academy at Buda Pesth, which was founded in 1825, and rapidly brought success to the Hungarian language movement. The Irish nation or wealthy Irishmen at home or in America might provide the funds.

The London "Times," which pretends to be the foremost champion of the union between Great Britain and Ireland coolly advocates the reduction of the Irish Parliamentary representation without even mentioning that this would be a breach of the union compact.

Rev. Sir David Hunter-Blair, a Scotch baronet who succeeded to the title since he became a Benedictine, is the head of a Catholic Hall in Oxford. This hall, which was opened a few years ago by the Benedictines of Ampleforth Abbey, has been recently transferred to a more central position, within a stone's throw of the old Benedictine College now known as Worcester.

The Catholic Association of England is organizing a pilgrimage to Rome in connection with the celebration of the Immaculate Conception jubilee. The pilgrims will start on Dec. 5, and may remain in Rome till Christmas Day.

The Czar, on Friday, Oct. 27, had a long audience at St. Petersburg with Monsignor Schembeck, Catholic Metropolitan.

SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET TO THE BROTHERS OF MARY.

MEMORABLE SPEECHES—ADMIRABLE LOYALTY TO HIGH TEACHING.

The jubilee banquet in St. Mary's new school on the 9th inst. marks an epoch in the educational history of Winnipeg. Seldom if ever has any banquet in this city witnessed such a feast of reason joined to so cordial a flow of soul. We regret that our space forbids a verbatim report of all the speeches, for all were fully worthy of a lasting record. With the spirit of school-day fellowship, the alumni of old St. Mary's gathered about the festive board and honored right royally the Rev. Brothers of Mary, the twenty-fifth anniversary of whose arrival in the parish was the occasion of the celebration. Every detail was most auspicious; it was most fitting as Father Cahill remarked, that the first public function in the new school should be such a splendid reunion of the boys of the old school.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

About 130 covers were laid for the banquet, which was served in the handsome and capacious convocation hall of the school. It was shortly after 8.30 o'clock when the speakers, led by Archbishop Langevin, were escorted by the reception committee to the head of the tables, very tastefully decorated with lighted candelabra and red poppies. On the right of the president of the alumni, Rep. Father Joseph Trudel, Ph.D., sat His Grace, Chief Justice Dubuc, and F. W. Russell, president of the Catholic club; on the other side were seated Mayor Sharpe, Rev. Father Drummond, S.J., and Rev. Father Cahill, O.M.I., pastor of St. Mary's.

After a most satisfying menu had been enjoyed, Rev. Joseph Trudel, Ph.D., president of the alumni, with a few well chosen remarks, introduced the list of toasts. With the toast of "Our Church and Country," Dr. Trudel first coupled the name of His Grace, the Archbishop. Mgr. Langevin responded chiefly to the toast of "the Church." The Church is not a superb organization, the creation of wise philosophers; it is a divine institution it is an institution, that discriminates against no nationality, no color; it embraces all mankind. As such the church is the great instrument in the upbuilding of this new nation of the Canadian Northwest. True Christianity guarantees the truest loyalty and patriotism to one's country. In improving himself the individual improves society. Why

then should not the alumni of old St. Mary's be a permanent organization? Its benefits will be mutual; while developing the strength to be found only in union, it will, by the intercourse of its members, improve one another. His Grace pushed the point most effectively. Before concluding the Archbishop paid a graceful tribute to Mayor Sharpe as the chief magistrate of the city government, which had just recently granted an exemption of the local Catholic schools from taxation.

MAYOR SHARPE

was welcomed with great applause as he rose to his feet. He was glad to say that he was a native of Connaught, and, though not a Catholic, had always associated with Catholic boys in his school days in Ireland. He spoke of his pleasure and pride in being among such a representative body of young men, and remarked upon the magnificence of this new St. Mary's school, one of the finest in the Northwest. Then he told some capital stories of Irish wit which convulsed the audience with laughter. He sat down the Orchestra struck up "He's a jolly good fellow," which the guests sang with a mighty will, ending up with three cheers for His Worship the Mayor.

CENTRAL CANADA

Rev. Father Drummond, S.J., in replying to the toast, addressed himself mainly to "Our Country." This great country frequently known as the Canadian West should be more properly termed "Central Canada."

It is commonly admitted that Winnipeg is not only the geographical centre of the continent, but the hub of the Dominion.

Central Canada might embrace that rich territory extending from, perhaps, Medicine Hat in the Territories to the Lake of the Woods in Western Ontario—the central region of that Canada of ours which Sir Wilfrid Laurier has said is to be the country of the twentieth century. All this boasting of the country amounts to nothing, however, unless its citizens act and do for it. They can do this by doing for themselves. It is, after all, the virtues of the individual that make the nation strong. Let the old boys of St. Mary's remember the precepts of their reverend teachers, whom they honor tonight; all these teachings, these guidances may be focussed in the two words "sincerity and justice". It is not so much a matter of having others act justly; if every man does his Christian duty, he will be just towards all others.

Remember what a cosmopolitan Church we are. About one half of the Catholics in this diocese are of Slavonic tongue. Thirty years hence this element will be filling important positions. Let us give them a helping hand in no narrow spirit of exclusiveness but in the broad fairplay of our truly Catholic training.

The toast "God Save the King" was drunk standing, together with the singing of the national anthem.

W. R. Bawlf in a few terse remarks proposed the toast to "Our Schools," coupling with it the name of F. W. Russell. The response was a very thoughtful essay on the value of Christian Catholic education; its advantages as reflected in the characters and capabilities of St. Mary's boys in commercial and financial circles of the city, and a history of the arduous labors through which St. Mary's school has attained to its present happy epoch.

SPLENDID ADDRESS

"Our Teachers" was proposed by Horace Chevrier, M.P.P., and to it was coupled the name of the Rev. Bro. Edward, director of St. Mary's boys' school. Mr. Chevrier, with well chosen words, paid a tribute to the effective and character-building teaching of the Brothers of St. Mary's as he had experienced it, wherein their boys had succeeded it was due to the example and precept of their reverend teachers, wherein they had failed they had digressed from their counsels. The reply of Rev. Bro. Edward was an admirably lucid statement of most interesting facts delivered in a grave and manly way to which the Rev. Brother's deep mellow voice gives a special charm. We print it entire.

(To be continued)