



Regina Separate School

OPENED BY THE PAPAL DELEGATE.

A flag floating from the Regina separate school building on Monday, October 29th, indicated that something of importance was about to transpire there. At three o'clock in the afternoon the school room was well filled with happy children, about sixty being present, while all available space was occupied by visitors. His Excellency, accompanied by Rev. Father Fisher, Dr. J. K. Barrett, Inspector Fitz-Horrigan, and Mr. F. Bourget, was soon announced and entered the school room, while the children sang the hymn, "Come Holy Ghost Creator Blest." Besides the above-named gentlemen we noticed on the platform Rev. Fathers De Busson, Garon and Zerbach, while Rev. Father Van Heertum, Parish Priest, acted as assistant to His Excellency during the ceremonies of the day.

The ceremony of blessing and inaugurating a Catholic school is a very impressive one and to every Catholic is full of meaning. These ceremonies completed, the children sang an especial hymn of welcome to His Excellency. Miss Madge McCarthy then stepped to the platform and read the following address:—

To His Excellency Mgr. Falconio, Apostolic Delegate to Canada.

May it please Your Excellency,

The teachers and pupils of this school beg to present to you the homage of their deep respect and devotion.

As a result of the Christian education imparted to us, our young minds are capable of realizing and appreciating the high honor conferred on us by a visit from the representative of Our Holy Father, Leo XIII., for whom we cherish the most profound reverence and love.

Owing to your Excellency's zeal for Christian education, you will be pleased to see that to-day we occupy for the first time this new school building, a very humble one compared with some you have seen; but for our poor struggling Catholics of Regina it is the fruit of many sacrifices, and the poor we know have your Excellency's special regard and sympathy.

The majority of our parents have come from foreign countries, and in this school five different languages are spoken; but what a comfort it is to unite here to be instructed in the Word of God according to the teachings of Holy Church, as well as in the curriculum of studies prescribed by the Government of our free Territories.

Our young hearts have anxiously awaited the opening of our new school, but little did we anticipate the pleasure of a visit from your Excellency.

We greatly regret that we have had so little time to prepare a reception suitable to the dignity of the occasion, but be assured that our Holy Father and your Excellency have our faithful love and veneration.

We humbly crave your blessing for our beloved pastor, our dear

parents, and teachers, and lastly, for your grateful and faithful children of the Regina Separate School,

Signed on behalf of the school,

Madge McCarthy,
Mage McCusker,
Sam Meyer,
Peter Coons.

His Excellency in reply thanked the children for the sentiments of love, respect and veneration expressed by them towards the Holy Father, Leo XIII., in the address. He said he was glad to know that they appreciated their beautiful building, I say beautiful building, he added, because, though small and humble in comparison to many other school buildings, yet for the Catholics in Regina, so few in number, it is, indeed, a beautiful building. "I am glad," he said, "to be able to give you the consolation that I, to-day, as representative of our Holy Father, bless your school, and in an especial manner have I begged of God a blessing for you all. This blessing should call to your minds the many sacrifices undergone by your parents and friends in order to build you this school. Though the building is comparatively small, yet here in Regina the Catholics are few and of several different nations. Here we see plainly the fruits of unity. Strength comes from unity. You parents have all united in a common cause, hence to-day you have your separate school building complete. May God bless your parents for the sacrifices they have undergone, and I hope sincerely that the day is not far distant when your parents may build a larger church; for although your school building is small, it is larger than the church. You, my dear children, must always bear in mind these sacrifices, the labor done, to give you a good education. You must remember that since your birth your parents have cared unceasingly for you and, now you are old enough, they entrust you to these good teachers who spend their hours, their days, their thoughts, aye, their lives, to give you a good sound Christian education. Remember the gratitude you owe your dear Pastor also for his untiring zeal in your behalf. Show your appreciation of all these things by being diligent and attentive. Why do some children make no progress? Is it the fault of parents, pastors or teachers? In many and most cases, no. In the Gospel our Lord compares those hearing instruction to seed sown in different kinds of soil. Some, sown by the wayside, is devoured by birds. Some falls on stony ground and dries up; some among thorns, and is choked; but other seed falls on good ground and brings forth fruit a hundredfold. If the seed of education falls on the minds of boys and girls who are not well-disposed, who are not pure of heart, it will not bring forth good fruit; but on the other hand, if it falls on good ground, on minds free from vice, ready to follow the instructions of parents, pastors and teachers, the fruit will be a hundredfold. May you imitate those latter children. Improve your opportunities and when your school days are over you may go forth into the world

well prepared to fill your position. Be pious, be devout. Study with attention. Then you will truly become Christian citizens.

"Your reference to our Holy Father shows me you well understand the lofty position he holds as the Representative of our Lord, His Vicar on Earth. While on earth our Saviour loved children in an especial manner, and when His Apostles rebuked those who brought them, fearing they would tire Him, our Blessed Lord said: 'Let them come to me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.' So in an especial manner our Holy Father, Leo XIII., cares for you, prays for you every day, thereby proving that he is the successor of St. Peter, the guide and guardian of His lambs, of all His Church; and in token of the same I, as Papal Representative, will now give you the special Papal Benediction."

Here all present knelt and received His Excellency's blessing. As the party were leaving the school room to inspect the building, three rousing cheers were given by the pupils for His Excellency. He was very much pleased, and in recognition of this act gave the children the first fine day as a holiday. Cheers were then given in succession for Rev. Father Van Heertum, the School Board, Gratton School and Brother Michael. A young gentleman present gallantly proposed three cheers for the lady teachers, which was more than re-echoed by the children, and the proceedings closed.

Regina Catholics may well point with pride to their school building. It is a very imposing looking building, two stories high, built of brick and well finished. It is 30 ft. x 56, gives ample room for four teachers; it occupies four lots and has all modern conveniences. The school room, where the ceremony was carried on, was very tastefully decorated. The blackboards showed great taste and skill, mottoes most cleverly printed in old English capitals. The Maple leaf was prominently noticed and other flowers were tastefully painted. Heartily do we all wish that the rising Catholic generation may make rapid progress and closely follow the advice given them by His Excellency Monsignor Falconio, on October 29th.

RELIGION AND MATERIAL PROSPERITY.

Catholic Times (Eng.)

It is one of the cardinal doctrines of the ordinary Protestant creed that Protestantism spells prosperity, and that prosperity in this world is the straight road to Heaven. The late Father Clarke, S.J., wrote on this subject one of the best articles that have come from his pen, and it appears in the current issue of the "American Catholic Quarterly Review." In reply to the assertion that the northern and Protestant nations of Europe enjoy a greater degree of material prosperity than the southern and Catholic nations, he declares that he does not believe this is true, unless the words "material prosperity"

are regarded as identical with the accumulation of wealth. The accumulation of wealth in Protestant England is greater than that which exists in Catholic Belgium or in the Tyrol. But if the expression be taken in a wider and truer sense, and if material prosperity is explained as identical with material well-being, the enjoyment by the people at large of the good things of this life, the scale, Father well qualified to form an opinion on the point will agree with him—would certainly turn in favor of the two Catholic countries mentioned.

"In the article on "The Catholic Church in its Relation to Material Prosperity" Father Clarke has drawn a distinction between mere material comfort and moral welfare. That Protestants have been socially and materially progressive he grants; but the man who claims for Protestant countries a higher morality and a more Christian spirit than that which prevails in countries that have remained faithful to the Holy See must, he affirms, be strangely ignorant of the true state of the Protestant masses. He throws out this challenge: Take any country town—to say nothing of London—in England or Protestant America and compare it with one of the same size in Catholic Ireland, or Belgium, or Westphalia, or the Tyrol. In the one will be found, no doubt, good order and great external respectability, at least in the upper and middle classes. But beneath the surface would be discovered a seething mass of destitution and pauperism, of degradation and godlessness among the old, and of corruption and immorality, especially among the young, a state of things heathen rather than Christian. In the Catholic country, on the other hand—say in Ireland—would be found a firm faith, a solid piety, a purity which seems almost incredible to those who are acquainted only with corrupt society, a sweet simplicity and innocence amongst the young, an honesty and uprightness, based on supernatural motives and on a heartfelt loyalty to religion that can scarcely be overstated. Such is Father Clarke's testimony as to the comparisons between Protestant and Catholic countries.

MR. T. D. SULLIVAN'S REMINISCENCES

Most Irishmen and not a few Englishmen, both inside and outside the House, will much regret the disappearance from the Irish Parliamentary Party of Mr. T. D. Sullivan, long a familiar presence in Irish politics, literature, and journalism. His absence, however, will have some compensating advantage, for the leisure which it ensures him will, we understand, be devoted to the writing of his Reminiscences, which his many friends have urged him to take in hand. The book ought to throw a good many interesting sidelights on Irish movements during the last half a century, for Mr. Sullivan has been more or less identified with all of them, and possesses an extensive inside knowledge to which few of his contemporaries can lay claim. He has been a journalist, a prominent personal-

in the civic life of Dublin, of which he was twice Lord Mayor, and a writer of verse whose stirring patriotic lyrics have been as familiar as household words in the mouths of more than one generation in Ireland, and a very active politician who has borne no inconsiderable share in the making of recent Irish history. He is equally respected by those who share his views and those who differ from him.—Catholic Times.

A LETTER FROM A ROYAL PRINCE.

On October 2nd Prince Albert of Belgium married Princess Elizabeth of Bavaria in Munich. On that day a High Mass was sung in St. Augustine's Church, Brandon, for the spiritual benefit of the royal couple. The Belgian Royal Family does not forget that the first wife of Leopold I. was the aunt of Queen Victoria; and, when Prince Albert of Belgium was informed of the prayers offered for him, he caused his secretary to write the following letter to Rev. Father Godts, C.S.S.R.:

Brussels, Oct. 19th, 1900.

Rev. Father,—

His Royal Highness Prince Albert, much affected by the very kind remembrance you entertain of his visit to America, also, by the good wishes addressed to him by your community on the occasion of his marriage, has commissioned me to express to you his sincere thanks.

It is particularly agreeable to His Royal Highness to learn that the Belgians of America prayed for him on the 2nd of October, and that they thus manifest attachment to their native country.

Deign to accept, Reverend Father, the expression of my profound esteem.

(Signed), The Secretary.

V. GODEFROID.

A DISTINGUISHED REDEMP-TORIST.

The Very Rev. W. Plunkett, rector of the Redemptorist Community in Perth, Western Australia, who, as already announced, died at St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, on Sunday, September 9, was in his 73rd year. Notwithstanding his advanced age and physical feebleness, he intended to be present at the opening of St. Mary's Cathedral and to read a paper at the Catholic Congress, but he became very ill on reaching the city and gradually sank. Two hundred priests attended his funeral, and Cardinal Moran in a