



“AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM.”

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**ANNALS OF ST. MARY'S.**

A PAPER READ AT THE SILVER JUBILEE OF ST. MARY'S ACADEMY.

After bidding each and all a most cordial welcome, I proceeded to the task before me. Difficult it is to compress into the space of a few short pages the records of a quarter of a century, so difficult that I would surely shrink were it not a labor of love to recapitulate the history of St. Mary's, the well-beloved Alma Mater of many who are proud to acknowledge as theirs, an Institution which has been for its privileged daughters a sanctuary of virtue, of culture and of refinement.

I learn from the first pages of its chronicles that on Aug. 10, 1874, under the guidance of that venerable missionary of the North, Reverend Father Lacombe, Oblate of Mary Immaculate, four Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (one of whom is here present) bade farewell to Hohelaga, the seat of their flourishing community, to fond parents, to kind friends, and to a country redolent with the balmy influences of religion and its refining associations. They left all this to come where? To these prairies of the far North, and what they were 25 years ago, how many of you, kind hearers, from hard experience, can tell? For whom did this pioneer band brave the bitter North? For us, dear companions assembled here to-day, for the children who yearly throng our schools, that thereby greater glory might accrue to the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

They landed on the banks of the Red River, Aug. 23, 1874. The first to bid these weary way-worn travellers a cordial welcome was the Reverend Father Forget, secretary to that venerable Archbishop of sainted memory, who, too, was anxious to receive within his archdiocese the devoted daughters of Mother Marie Rose. "You are a thousand times welcome, my dear Sisters," was the heartfelt greeting which enhanced with a never-to-be-forgotten beauty that first blessing received on the plains of the North-West. Needless to say, how that fervent "God bless you" sank into hearts yet sensitive from wounds caused by severing the holiest ties for God's sake. There, too, were the hospitable Grey Sisters, Mother Hamel and Sr. M. Fiset, a pupil of a branch house of this Community in Langeuil, who with open arms offered a home to those who were yet homeless. Many prominent citizens were also present, but of that course only three are in this vicinity to witness the development of that humble beginning. Who were these generous missionaries? Their names are familiar to every pupil who has crossed the threshold of St. Mary's. There is a charm which lurks around the name of one, who during twelve years spent her strength and energy in behalf of this institution. Have not her kind condescension and tender solicitude, even in the minutest details of deportment and education, become proverbial in our dear Alma Mater?

Need I name our dear Mother John of God to whom the heart of every pupil goes out in reverence and grateful affection?

In 1886 she was recalled to the Mother House and Mother Mary Rosary came to occupy the position of Superioress. Her stay in the midst of us was short and sweet as the blooming of a summer rose; yet, the perfume of her virtue and affable manners exhaled a pure and holy fragrance which time has not lessened.

She was succeeded by Mother Martin of the Ascension, who during 18 years toiled in these Prairie Lands as teacher, guide and mother. Are not her strong principles of justice and firmness still remembered and lovingly cherished? Christian education was the paramount object of her endeavors, so she spared neither time, labor, nor even herself in the attaining of this truly noble ambition.

Then Sr. M. Leontine, after devoting 17 years as teacher, was called upon to assume this responsibility. Here during the too brief space of one year could she give full scope to that ardent zeal so characteristic of her missionary career.

This leaves me at 1894-1895, one of the most varied periods in the annals. At its opening we were enshrouded in gloom by the death of our venerable Founder. Three times again during that short interval did the heavenly visitant stop at our sanctuary of peace and found Sisters M. Zephyrin, Lambert and Agapit ready for the call of God. Then came March 19, and with it is chronicled an event which evokes sentiments of joy and happiness, the Consecration of our revered Archbishop. But during this time of sunshine and sorrow, by a special permission of Divine Providence, Mother John of God came to share its griefs and joys with her children of the North-West.

This brings me down to the present Mother Angelic of Mary, who since 1895 has been faithfully walking in the footsteps of her predecessors, especially by her untiring efforts to cultivate in the young lady of to-day a pure love and ardent desire for a truly Christian education, so necessary in this 19th century.

Time will not permit me to mention the names of the able, zealous and devoted teachers who have been connected with St. Mary's; however, I cannot pass over in silence those who have gone to their reward: Sisters M. Sylvia Electa of the Sacred Heart, Frederick of Jesus, M. Zephyrin, M. Bernard, M. Angela, M. Lambert, M. Agapit. I wonder if to-day their kindred spirits do not hover over this scene where all bespeaks truth and loyalty to St. Mary's.

How I would like to dwell on the career of each one of our alumnae!—Suffice it to say that of the 16 graduates one has joined the Sisters of the Holy Names, five are married, seven have made teaching a profession, while the remainder are going through the quiet rounds of sweet domestic duty.

More than this does the history of St. Mary's reveal. Page after page is illumined with kindly deeds of generous benefactors. Foremost come that glorious phalanx of missionaries, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, under whose protecting power the Community of the Holy Names in-

creased and multiplied. With Reverend Father Lacombe as the Raphael of their coming and Archbishop Tache as founder and first instigator of the good done in the North-West, could failure be possible? The spring of kindly deeds was then and there touched, and ever since up to the present Rev. Father Guillet, St. Mary's inmates have felt its beneficent influence.

Neither can I omit those other great missionaries, priests, regular and secular, who are spending their lives and energies in planting the seeds of wisdom and virtue in hearts, and who, in the present as in the past, are friends of this Institution and its aids in the great cause of education. Several of them have proved their appreciation thereof by soliciting its members to be their helps in instructing the youth of their respective parishes. Shall I pass unnoticed those gala days of school-life when noble prelates, dignitaries of the Church and of the State condescended to honor us with their benign presence; yet, I must admit, that on no occasion did our hearts throb with greater joy than when the visit of our revered Archbishop was announced. One year, brief in happy memories did he spend in our midst, then came that great day—Consecration Day—which in opening to him a vaster field of labor gave us the two-fold privilege of possessing in him a father and a pastor.

On, on, might I continue; but it is needless, as the record of St. Mary's 25 years' work of usefulness is written in more gleaming characters than my poor, feeble pen can portray, in the memory of those who, as myself, have learned to know, to revere and to love this our own dear Convent Home.

**THE LATEST ENGLISH GHOST.**

The peace of a select circle in Oxford is just now considerably disturbed by the facts having leaked out concerning a very thrilling ghostly visitation which happened a few weeks ago in an old home, reputed for a long time past to be haunted. No tenant had been found sufficiently bold to hire it until lately, when some young ladies connected with the Salvation Army, under the lead of Miss W., a well known worker among the poor, ventured to take it off the landlord's hands for a small rental. The first night they slept there they were much disturbed by uncanny noises and by the strange sounds of the moving of furniture. Determined to discover the truth, they set to work in a very methodical way by flouring the staircase, so as to detect footsteps, and by pasting up the fireplaces. They, moreover, induced the policeman to watch the house, so as to prevent any knavish attempts upon their credulity. The result was highly unsatisfactory, for on the second night of their stay they all saw the figure of a woman apparently issue from the wall, and pass up the staircase and vanish. Miss W. deposed that the apparition actually "passed through her own person, as through a door." On the following night Miss W. was upstairs, the other two ladies remaining in the parlor. Suddenly Miss W. heard an awful scream, and rushed down to see what had happened. On

the stairs she was met by the ghost, which once more "passed through her." Nothing daunted, the brave lady proceeded to look for her companions. She found one of them in strong convulsions and the other in a death faint. The sad part of the story is that one young lady has since gone raving mad from the effects of the fright, and the other died a few days ago from the same cause. The ghost is that of a tall female in a long gray dress or robe.—Montreal Star.

**JAPANESE LEPERS.**

Kumamoto, (Japan), Nov. 15th. To the Editor of the NORTH-WEST REVIEW.

Dear Sir.—Many thanks to the charitable persons, who have done something for our poor lepers and other abandoned sick.

The work is commenced in three places: Biwasaki; Kumamoto et Yatsushiro.

Biwasaki is a simple village, near Kumamoto, and situated beside a district, which from immemorial time, has been the place of refuge for the poor lepers and other abandoned sick. We commenced something there in 1894. From October 1898, we have Franciscan nuns. See the enclosed photograph. We have built a little wooden house, which serves as a provisory hospital. The number of sick received until this day, is 488. Of that number, several are already dead, after receiving baptism. Many have returned to their country. Now there remain about one hundred, totally or partially dependent on us.

In Kumamoto, the chief city of this province, the work commenced a little time ago, is entrusted to the Sisters of the Infant Jesus, and has nursed 102 outcasts of all kinds.

In Yatsushiro, a subprefectural town some thirty miles distant from Kumamoto, the work conducted by the catechists numbered 33 patients.

Before concluding this account, I have two remarks to make.

First. It is very urgent to build a definitive hospital in Biwasaki. But we are in need yet of six thousand dollars, that is to say, sixty subscriptions of one hundred dollars.

Second remark. The deeds of mercy touch the heart of the heathen, and dispose them to Christianity. Our Lord said (Luc. x, 8-9): "Into what city soever you enter, heal the sick, that are therein". The work of the sick is essentially an apostolic work, and prepares conversions.

Dear Mr. Editor, we trust in the charity of your readers. Perhaps some of them could contribute a full subscription. To save the souls by relieving the bodies, is there any better work?

Your humble servant in our Lord,

J. M. CORRE,

P.S. Donations may be sent to me directly by International Post money order. They can also be remitted to the Father Economist of the Grand Séminaire, Montreal, P. Q. I should also be very grateful to you, Dear Mr. Editor, if you would kindly let them to be remitted to you, and acknowledge them in your paper.

Please send me a copy of the issue in which my present letter will be published.

Excuse the bad English. My native tongue is French.

**POSITIONS OF OPPOSING FORCES.**

Montreal Star, Dec. 19th.

The dispositions of the British and Boer forces in South Africa, as gathered from the latest War office and other despatches, are as follows:

**NATAL.**

Durban—British base.  
Pietermaritzburg—British.  
Eastcourt—British.  
Frere—Buller's immediate base.  
Chieveley—Railroad open to this point. Buller here after Friday's defeat.  
Colenso—Present Natal storm-centre. Boers defeated Buller, who tried to force passage of Tugela Friday. Buller lost 1097 men and eleven guns. Boer loss unknown. No news except Buller's despatches.  
Ladysmith—White commands 11,000 British, invested by Boers under Schalkburgher and Botha. Supplies short.

**CAPE COLONY.**

Cape Colony—British base.  
East London—British base.  
Sterkstroom—Gatacre here.  
Nauwpoort—British.  
Arundel—Occupied by French's cavalry December 7. French's headquarters.  
Stormberg—1500 Boers. Gatacre ambushed and defeated near here December 10. British loss nearly 700. Boer loss 20.  
Dordrecht—Cape Dutch rising growing daily; 1500 Boers with six guns.  
Colesberg—Boers. Reconnoissance toward Nauwpoort checked by British.  
Aliwal North—Boers.  
Burghersdorp—Boers.  
Norval's Pont—Boers.  
Waterfall—Large force of Boers.  
Orange River Frontier—Boers in force.  
De Aar—British military depot.  
Orange River Junction—Starting point of Methuen's advance to Kimberley.  
Hope Town—4000 rebel Dutch menace Methuen's rear.  
Belmont—Methuen defeated Boers here November 25. Boers here threaten Methuen's rear.  
Gras Pan—Ten miles north of Belmont. Methuen defeated Boers here November 25. Boers still hover about.

**GRICUALAND WEST.**

Modder River—Methuen defeated Boers here November 28. Methuen here after reverse at Magersfontein. Boers close on all sides. Boers reported moving south from Jacobsdal, threatening Methuen's rear.  
Magersfontein—General engagement December 11 resulted in British reverse, with 963 casualties. Boer loss believed over 700.  
Spreyfontein—Boers.  
Kimberley—1500 British under Kekewich besieged by Boers. Rhodes here. Supplies short.

**BECHUANALAND.**

Mafeking—Baden-Powell commands 1500 British, besieged by Boers. Rations short.  
Last Friday a thermometer placed in the sunshine registered 88 degrees.

Croup, Coughs and Colds are all quickly cured by Pyny-Pectoral. It lessens the cough almost instantly, and cures readily the most obstinate cold. Manufactured by the proprietors of Perry Davis' Pain-Killer.