

CURRENT COMMENT

A kind friend sends us the following clipping from the Minnedosa Tribune. The fact that our Manitoba contemporary published this without adverse comment or apology of any kind, shows that non-Catholics are at last awakening to what the Minnedosa Tribune calls "A weak spot in our public schools."

The Hamilton 'Spectator' recently selected a bright looking youth of 17 years of age, who had been through the collegiate institute, to test his fitness for a position. He claimed to have a fundamental system of book-keeping, whatever that is. His spelling was tested by giving him twenty-five ordinary words, by no means the catch words and puzzlers of the language, but twenty-five ordinary everyday newspaper words. The bright boy of the collegiate institute wrote the words as they were given to him and we have the record. Of the twenty-five words he spelled just five correctly!

Our contemporary remarks: "Now this is a fair sample of the boys who have the advantage of what is boasted about as being the greatest system of education in the world. He is most likely quite proficient in the fads and frills which have been imposed upon him. He admits that he has a 'fundamental system of book-keeping.' But he cannot spell. And simply because his teachers have neglected that most important branch of the boy's education, taking up his time with utterly useless frills, he cannot qualify for the situation he seeks. Is it not abominable?"

Writing in the 'True voice,' Father Strich, S. J., makes a good point in favor of Catholic newspapers.

"How often has not every priest been asked what Catholics are to think of certain statements, alleged facts, or false principles read in the newspapers, heard from the lecture platform, or urged in conversation by men and women, ignorant or prejudiced it may be, but too influential to be ignored? The priest regrets that his information or exposition in the case is given only to one person. He rightly wishes he could reach all Catholics likely to be perplexed by such utterances and through them all the non-Catholics who honestly seek information from Catholic friends or neighbors. The Catholic newspaper gives him the opportunity of carrying out his wish. The contribution of an occasional article on such practical questions will bring the priest who does it to keep closer watch over such damaging statements and opinions."

This is precisely what we are doing week in and week out. We should be very grateful to any of our priestly readers who, having occasion to refute current misrepresentations in his pulpit, would send us a short report of his remarks, made out by himself, since the reports of non-Catholic journals are proverbially incorrect. Thus his words would carry farther and do more good.

An amusing mistake, which a little knowledge of Catholic customs would have prevented, was lately made by a great German Journal, the 'Frankfurter Zeitung.' It announced that on September 18th Pope Pius X. allowed the golden jubilee of his priesthood to pass without ceremony. Now any well informed Catholic could have told the editor of that journal that

this was impossible, simply because the Holy Father is only in his sixty-ninth year. A golden jubilee means fifty years of priesthood, and no one can be ordained before his twenty-third year is fairly advanced. The fact is that Giuseppe Sarto was ordained priest on September 18th, 1858, and has still five years to wait for his golden jubilee.

The Rome correspondent of the 'Catholic Times' (England) gives this account of the Sovereign Pontiff's daily habits.

The Pope's day is simple enough at all times. He rises at or before five, and says mass after six o'clock in the little oratory which was made for him on the second day after his election. There is in it a small wooden altar, which has over it a crucifix of ivory. Six bronze candlesticks flank a gilded and inlaid tabernacle of wood. The altar rests on a carpet, which stretches out to the middle of the room where are the Pope's kneeling desk and arm chair. To the right is a credence-table. A tasteful Murano glass candelabrum hangs from the centre of the ceiling. His Holiness has not missed saying mass daily since his elevation to the pontifical dignity. On the day after his election he had no private oratory, the apartment of the late pope being sealed up, but he said that he could celebrate mass being Pope, just as when he was Cardinal, and he went and offered the Holy Sacrifice in the Pinacoteca, at one of the altars that had been set up for the Conclave. Monsignor Bressan, the private secretary of the Pontiff, generally serves the Pope's Mass, which lasts upwards of half an hour. After it the Pope kneels at the desk during a Mass of thanksgiving. His breakfast is a simple cup of coffee. When he went into the gardens, a practice which he has temporarily abandoned on account, probably, of a slight rheumatic affection in the right foot) he delighted to observe the vegetation and sights, conversing meantime with the private participant chamberlain and noble guard on duty. During this morning walk, which never lasted for more than an hour, the Pope invariably made a little pilgrimage to the grove of Lourdes, which as he has since said, he visits because he cannot go to the original sanctuary. On returning to his apartment, Pius X. goes through his immense correspondence, receives the Secretaries of the Congregations—these are the routine audiences—and finally the Pro-Secretary of State. Official and private audiences follow. The Pope takes his slight dinner—which is of a single dish of meat—a little after one. His siesta is of upwards of an hour's duration. Recitation of the breviary follows, and after this he resumes his work, until at six he goes for a walk in the loggias. Visitors and pilgrims are often received here, and after their withdrawal the Pope remains alone with his secretary, with whom he converses as he walks. He often speaks of Venice; he observes the frescoes and the decorations of the place; and enjoys the panorama. When the weather is warm the doors of approach remain open, but they are guarded each by a carbineer; if the heat be not inconvenient they are shut. But the walk is not a long one, and from about seven o'clock until nine the Pope continues his day's work. At the latter hour he takes his evening meal, which is as slight as that of Leo XIII. After ten, he again reads his breviary, and, if there be time, glances at the newspapers, but not for long, because at half past ten he invariably retires to rest.

The Rev. W. Montague Greer, vicar of St. Paul's Chapel, and one of the most prominent Episcopalian ministers in New York, created a sensation lately by an article he contributed to the New York Sun, in which he came out squarely in favor of denominational schools.

Dr. Greer charges openly that, instead of a non-sectarian system of education we have a sectarian one—the sectarianism of the agnostic and atheist.

"We will be flying," says Dr. Greer, "as frightened doves to the windows, to the Roman Catholic church, as the greatest power, which in troublous days, will stand for law and order and the highest morality."

Another declaration of Dr. Greer is: "Every religious body should provide for the education of its own children. * * * This means division in part, at least, of the school moneys, and troublesome enough it is likely to prove; but it is Sailor's Snug Harbor in comparison with the stormy seas which we are now steering the Ship of State for."

When the graduates of Manitoba University put in their plea for a larger representation on the Council, they assured the St. Boniface representatives that they (the graduates) could elect at least one Catholic candidate. This promise helped them to the desired number of ten representatives; but the promise has not been kept; on the contrary, the Catholic representative, who has been nominated for some eight or ten years past, has been distanced by at least one much younger candidate, who has secured the number of votes required for election. Although, instructed by past experience, we set little store by that promise when it was made, yet we deem it well to note how poorly it was kept. Had there been any sincere wish to give representation to the minority, the graduates, in their preliminary meetings, would easily have persuaded a large number of the members of Convocation to vote for a Catholic graduate.

We beg to direct especial attention to the very weighty utterances of his Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface, and his Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba at the inauguration of St. Mary's Academy. It will be noticed that Sir Daniel McMillan, who has been a resident of this city for 33 years, does not hesitate to say that the opening of so splendid a convent is an event of great importance to the citizens of Winnipeg and the people of the province of Manitoba, showing "that the desire to provide for higher education is kept fully abreast if not in advance of the growth of the city," and that the training imparted in St. Mary's Academy is "of the very highest order." These are his exact words, reported verbatim.

The final number of "Les Debats" the weekly scoffer, condemned by His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi, of Montreal, lies before us. That is what it has always done, and the ruling passion is strong in death. It announces that it will no longer appear as "Les Debats," but that its editorial staff will start another paper the prospectus of which will be submitted to Mgr. Bruchesi. Yet in one and the same issue it threatens not only an appeal to Rome, but also an appeal to the Civil law courts, and it calls the Archbishop a tyrant. The writhings of this scotched snake prove that the scotching came none too early.

Ever since new blood was infused into the management of the Northwest Review, at the beginning of July, complaints have come in, with unpleasant frequency, from

subscribers whom our present publisher has dunned. Good friends, kind friends, be not hasty or hysterical. Our present publisher will not make you pay if you show that you have already paid. He writes you according to his records in the books. That these books were badly kept by his predecessor is not his fault. We are all likely to be deceived, and no one regrets more than we do the trust we once placed in an incapable manager. But it will do our subscribers no good to get angry

and stop the paper. A word of explanation is better than a childish exhibition of temper.

From such exhibitions it is a comfort to turn to Father Jubinville's letter, printed in another column. By the way this letter shows how a French Canadian, who went through his university course in St. Boniface College, can write English. Not the slightest verbal correction have we made in this admirable letter.

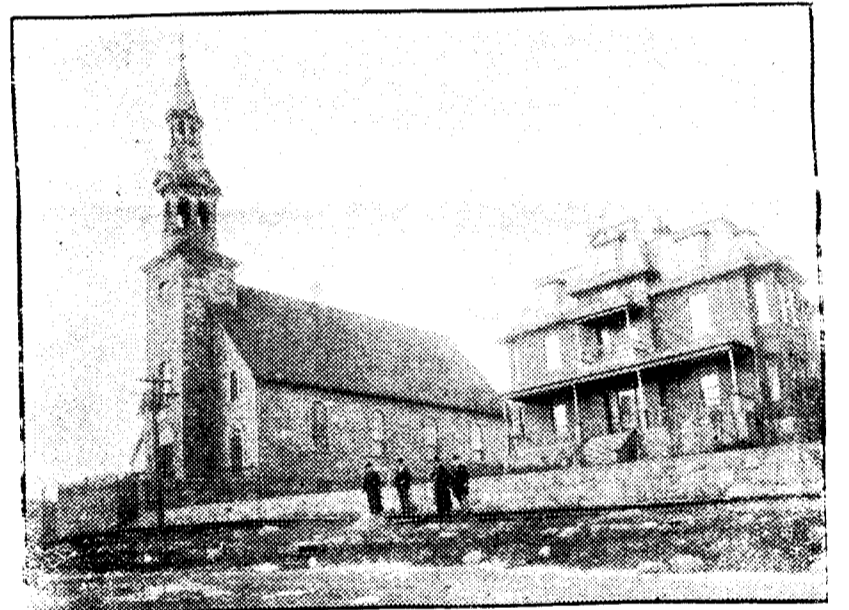
Rat Portage Consecration.

Notre Dame Church, Erected at a Cost of \$30,000, is Free of Debt—Archbishop Langevin and Rev. Father Drummond Take Part in the Ceremonies.

Rat Portage, Ont., Oct. 11.—Through the goodwill and co-operation of his parishioners Rev. Father Gendreau, rector of Notre Dame, has removed the debt from the church, and this morning it was consecrated by His Grace Archbishop Langevin.

The interior of the edifice was

also Rev. F. Cahill, a former pastor, sang the mass. The music was good, especially the singing of the assistant pastor, Rev. Father Emard, and Mr. Leviller, of Norman, who sang throughout the four hours' service. The church was filled; large numbers came from Norman and Keewatin. Rev. Father Gendreau and his congregation of 150 families are to be congratulated on the splendid condition of the church.



Notre Dame Church and Priest's Residence, Rat Portage.

beautifully and appropriately decorated. In the centre the main altar is a work of art; above it is a niche containing the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, surrounded by an aureole of electric lights. This solemn, impressive service began at 8 a.m. with prayers on-side the church and the blessing of the exterior. Then the various parts of the interior were consecrated.

THE SERMON.

Rev. Father Drummond preached an eloquent and convincing sermon on "Lift up your heads, O ye gates," Psalm 24: 7. He mentioned Jacob pouring oil upon the stone at Bethel, the first consecration ceremony, and later the splendor of Solomon's dedication of the temple. Here there was a special presence which told of God being there. This presence remained in the holy of holies, only in one city, one temple, witnessed only by the high priest, but since the incarnation, Christ dwells as the King of Glory in the Sacrament, as a spiritualized body, a mystery, but true, because it is the word of God. The reverend Father admonished his hearers to duly reverence the service of the Church, to fill their minds with imagings of the things that will not end, to cleave to the eternal, to consecrate the temples of their souls and keep them in the presence of God that one day they might see Him face to face.

Rev. Father Beaudin, rector when this church was built, was present,

The picture shown is that of Notre Dame Catholic church, Rat Portage, which was consecrated on Sunday by His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface. This edifice is situated on Third street, on a high elevation, from which is presented one of the finest views of the Lake of the Woods.

It is a stone structure, built in 1888 at a cost of \$30,000. This sum has been paid and there is no encumbrance of any kind against the property. Recently \$1,000 has been spent in refitting and decorating the interior.

Rev. Father Gendreau is rector, and the congregation is larger than that of any other church in town. On an adjoining lot is the priest's house, which was built in 1898. It is a solid brick building, and with the decorations of the grounds cost \$7,000.

The consecration of Notre Dame du Portage began at 8 a.m. and ended at 11.10. It was followed immediately by the solemn High Mass, celebrated by Rev. Father Cahill, O.M.I., which ended at 12.30. Shortly after one about twenty-five gentlemen, leading citizens of Rat Portage, Norman and Keewatin, representatives of the C.M.B.A. and the Catholic Order of Foresters, etc., sat down to a fine banquet prepared by the ladies of the parish. The bill of fare, which was full of happy hits, reads thus: