



CURRENT COMMENT

There is, we are pleased to hear, a considerable demand for Father Morice's "History of the Northern Interior of British Columbia," so fully reviewed a couple of weeks ago in these columns. From enquiries made we perceive that we forgot to mention the price and the best place to get the book. The price is two dollars and a half, a sum which considering the large size and fine appearance of the volume and especially the excellence of the 33 illustrations and the original man, is very moderate. There pictures all really illustrate the text, and most of them are photographs taken by the author himself. One of them in particular, a group of four descendants of 'Kwah, took him twelve hours to develop, as his developer had become altogether too weak and he could not get any other in the wilderness of Stuart Lake. This History can also boast of publishing for the first time a portrait of Simon Fraser, "the first British Columbian." This portrait was kindly lent to the author by the Hon. Senator R. W. Scott, Secretary of State for Canada. The best way to get the book is to send a money order for it to Rev. A. G. Morice, O.M.I., Mission City, B.C. Longheaded people are already making arrangements for Christmas, and surely the presentation of such a standard historical work would gladden the heart of any studious and patriotic relative, or friend.

Our shrewd contemporary, the Milwaukee "Catholic Citizen," judging merely from the intrinsic uncouthness of "United Canada" very correctly expresses doubts as to the truth of that paper's "vociferous" opinions. If Mr. Desmond ever visited Ottawa he would soon find out how profoundly the Catholics of that city are ashamed of being represented abroad by such an illiterate, unreliable, horribly printed sheet. As a sample of its wildly untrue assertions, we quote the following, printed in the Catholic Citizen of the 29th ult.—J. K. Barrett, of the Northwest Review of Winnipeg, has been made Dominion inspector of inland revenue since 1896." These words are taken from a passage in which the editor of "United Canada" is describing the present political bias of several leading Catholic journals. Everyone here knows that Dr. J. K. Barrett has had no connection with the Northwest Review since 1895 and that he was made Inspector of Inland Revenue, necessarily a Dominion appointment, at least eleven years before 1896, the year of Laurier's advent to power. Dr. Barrett edited the Review with remarkable vigor and success from 1891 to 1894 and contributed occasional articles for one year longer; but he has had nothing to do with it, even by way of suggestion, for almost ten years. Yet "United Canada" represents him as being rewarded for his editorial work by an appointment which as a matter of fact, he received six years before he entered the field of journalism.

Another phrase which completes the same quotation from "United Canada" by the Milwaukee "Catholic Citizen," is this, "and the unmentionable Antigonish Casket has also vanished." That word, "also," seems to imply that the Northwest Review vanished with its editor's supposed appointment in 1896. Perhaps the editor of "United Canada" imagines we have disappeared because we no longer exchange with him; we cut him off several years ago. Of course, we need not assure our Catholic exchanges that the "Casket" has not "vanished" in any sense that is intelligible among those who speak and write the King's English, although the illiterate editor of "United Canada" may attribute to the word "vanish" a meaning unknown to educated persons. The "Casket" is so often quoted by the best Catholic papers in America that no intelligent editor can fail to notice its abounding vitality. "United Canada" calling "The Casket" unmentionable bears a remote resemblance to a satyr jeering at Apollo, only the satyr would have had too much sense to write down his gibe.

The strike of the compositors in our printing office has been more serious than we expected, especially as it has been complicated by the illness of an operator not affected by the strike. The Northwest Review for last week was set up in time and ready for casting in the monotype machine when this part of the machine broke down. This explains why we have had to skip one week.

Since writing the comment on the Police Magistrate's recommendation of St. Boniface College as a sort of reformatory for a juvenile delinquent, we have learned that in answer to a letter of inquiry from the President of St. Boniface College the Police Magistrate of Winnipeg has written a courteous reply to the effect that he never even mentioned St. Boniface College. The boy's sister told the Hon. T. Mayne Daly that she would undertake to look after him and if possible get him looked after by the "Reverend Fathers of St. Boniface," which Mr. Daly understood to mean the church authorities of St. Boniface. The newspaper reporter misunderstood and applied the phrase to St. Boniface College.

There is some talk of getting Miss Edna Sutherland to repeat "Everyman." Why not give a Catholic and complete recital of this great Morality Play before a mainly Catholic audience in the public hall of St. Mary's Academy, where Miss Sutherland teaches elocution? We feel sure that many Catholics, who did not attend the first public recital in the Y.M.C.A., perhaps because they did not feel at home in that overwhelmingly non-Catholic atmosphere would be glad to avail themselves of this select gathering of the coreligionists of Everyman.

The influence of Catholic doctrine and practice is making itself daily more and more felt among our separated brethren. The other day it was the American Episcopal House of Bishops striving earnestly though unsuccessfully, to secure a majority vote against remarriage of even innocent divorced persons. Now it is the passing of a decree by another American assembly of the same persuasion condemning home weddings and requiring the marriage ceremony to be solemnized in church, unless the Bishop grant a dispensation. This last has always been the rule in the Catholic Church, except in places where there is no building dedicated to Catholic worship, or where the priest is merely a witness and pronounces no benediction, as in mixed marriages.

The students of St. Boniface College were indignant at a report in last week's papers to the effect that the Winnipeg Police Magistrate had agreed to suspend the sentence of a juvenile thief provided he were placed in St. Boniface College. The students of the oldest and most successful college in the West solemnly protest against the idea of their Alma Mater being a sort of reformatory for young delinquents. It is needless to say that this precocious sinner was not accepted by the authorities of St. Boniface College.

Mr. Wilford Phillips, manager of the Winnipeg Street Railway Company, when interviewed recently by a Telegram reporter, said he had received only one complaint about the car service between Winnipeg and St. Boniface, and he added that this solitary wail came from a Winnipeg real estate man whom he presumed to be only aiming at booming his property. This is a very weak defence. There have been half a dozen complaints both in this paper and in the Free Press, and we are more justified than Mr. Phillips is, when he sneers at the "real estate man," in presuming that each of these journalistic strictures voices the feelings of a great number of long suffering passengers. However, let our numerous informants take the hint and write collectively or individually to Mr. Phillips, giving their own personal experience. Let them not, nevertheless, entertain any delusive hopes of obtaining redress. Civil corporations are like governments; their only stimulus to action is the dread of an adverse public opinion, to which governments are much more sensitive

than corporations; hence the superior advantage for the public of public over private ownership of transportation facilities. So long as we cannot secure public ownership, the next best thing is public pressure brought to bear on private owners. Private letters may be ignored or sneered at, letters sent privately to the Company and published at the same time in a public journal are the most effective weapons. Even if the Company refuses to give Norwood and St. Boniface a fifteen minute, instead of that absurd twenty-five minute service, there are three defects that ought immediately to be corrected; (1) The steps by which the St. Boniface cars are entered are too high and the lowest one is too far from the ground; (2) the handle which the passenger grasps on entering is too short and too high up for ladies; (3) the cars have not yet been heated, and though the end of last week and the beginning of this were exceptionally mild, severe cold weather may come at any moment.

Abbot Gasquet, who completed his fifty-eighth year at the beginning of October, and who has just added to his long list of learned works the first fully printed edition of the earliest Life of Pope St. Gregory the Great by a Monk of the Monastery of Whitby, recently delivered in the Cathedral of St. Paul, Minn., a course of lectures which extended over a week. He also conducted a retreat for 170 theologians and philosophers from St. Thomas's Seminary. His lectures and sermons are greatly admired.

Anent the relations of Buddhism and Christianity, a question proposed by one of our correspondents a few weeks ago, we are reminded by a friend that Dr. Aiken recently published "The Dhamma of Gotama the Buddha and the Gospel of Jesus Christ," which was favorably reviewed by the London "Tablet."

Replying to enquiries about the Ruthenians, who now number nearly half of the total Catholic population of the archdiocese of St. Boniface, we regret that we cannot point to any English book on the subject. But Herder of Freiburg in Breisgau published this year a German translation of a Polish work by Dr. Eduard Likowski, which gave the history of the union happily effected between the Ruthenians and Rome in 1596, and which appeared in 1896, on the occasion of the tercentenary of the Synod of Brzesc, a town in what was then the Kingdom of Poland. The title of the German work is "Die ruthenisch-romische Kirchen vereinigung gennant Union zu Brest." The "Catholic Dictionary" tells us that the cause of the union was zealously promoted by the Jesuit school established at Vilna by Father Possevin and by the Polish King Calixtus III. The Ruthenians were one of the Slavonic peoples converted to Christianity at the end of the tenth century by missionaries from Constantinople. Owing to the source from which they had received their Christianity, they, in common with so many other Slavonic peoples, were in ecclesiastical communion with Constantinople and not with Rome. In 1438, however, at the Council of Florence, the Metropolitan of Kiev, the original capital of the early southern Muscovite monarchy, warmly supported the union between the Russian and the Roman churches; but the union of Kiev and its suffragans sees to the Catholic Church was neither real nor lasting, and the last trace of it had disappeared early in the sixteenth century. However at the end of that century, as we have seen, in 1596, the Metropolitan of Kiev and seven suffragans were at their own request received by Clement VIII. into the Catholic communion. Thus the Ruthenian province arose; the metropolitan was chosen by the bishops and all were placed under Propaganda, which was represented by the Polish nuncio. But at the partition of Poland all the Catholic Ruthenian dioceses, except Lemberg Przemysl, and part of Brzesc (or "Brest" in German), became Russian dominion. In 1865 there were about 250,000 Catholics of the Ruthenian rite in Russian Poland, but most of these have since been forced by atrocious persecution to join the

schismatic Russian church. In Austrian Poland, on the contrary, the Ruthenians were well treated and there are now in Galicia at least two millions of Ruthenian Catholics under the Archbishop of Lemberg, whose metropolitan see was erected by Pius VII. in 1807. His secretary, Rev. Father Zoldak, has been ministering to the Uniate Ruthenians in Manitoba for the last three years, and was recalled this week to Galicia. Several priests of the Order of St. Basil the Great are also laboring among the Catholics of their rite, and it is hoped that Father Zoldak's report to his Metropolitan will induce His Grace of Lemberg to send many new missionaries of the Ruthenian rite to minister to their people. The services of priests of the Latin rite are never as welcome as those of their own Ruthenian priests, who understand more thoroughly the character of a people so firmly wedded to their national traditions.

Clerical News.

His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface went to Makinac on Monday the 7th inst., returning the same day.

Rev. John Beigert, S.J., preached in Polish at the Holy Ghost Church last Sunday, Nov. 6th, having returned from Minnesota during the previous week.

Rev. Father Lejeune, O.M.I., of Kamloops, B.C., arrived from Europe at St. Boniface on Saturday the 5th inst. Having been sent as a delegate to the Chapter of the Oblates at Liege, he took with him two Indians who excited no little interest in the cities which he visited in England, France, Belgium and Italy. In Rome he had an audience with the Holy Father, whose kindness and gentleness impressed him greatly. Father Lejeune left for Kamloops on Saturday evening.

Rev. Father Bunoz, O.M.I., of Dawson, reached here on his way back from the General Chapter of the Oblates on Monday, Nov. 7, and continued his westward journey on Tuesday.

Rev. A. Antoine, O.M.I., Ph.D., D.D., late professor of mathematics and theology at the University of Ottawa, has been appointed Superior of the San Antonio (Texas) Theological Seminary. Rev. Dr. Antoine preached several retreats in this diocese in 1902, among others the clergy retreat at St. Boniface College.

The Right Rev. Henry O'Callaghan, Archbishop of Nicosia, formerly Rector of the English College, Rome, and Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, died on Oct. 10. He had been paralyzed for several years, and for some months had been almost deprived of speech.

The "Gaulois" says:—The Pope has come to a definite decision regarding the position of the Bishops of Laval and Dijon. They will each receive a pension of eight thousand francs, but neither will be allowed to hold any episcopal title.

The Archbishops and Bishops of the Republic of Mexico are to build a house in the City of Mexico which is to be the home of the Papal Delegate. Archbishop Gillow, of Oaxaca, has given a lot on a fashionable avenue for the purpose.

Rev. Father Drummond, S.J., left on Thursday, Nov. 10, to preach a Jubilee triduum in the cathedral at Fargo.

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Persons and Facts

CONCERT AT SAINT BONIFACE COLLEGE

On Monday the 14th inst., at 8 p.m. will be given the First Annual Concert of St. Boniface College. The College proposes to hold henceforth two concerts a year. This is the inaugural one, under the patronage of his Grace the Archbishop.

Ever since the beginning of the scholastic year, the boys, under the able direction of Rev. Father de Mangleere, have been preparing it with untiring zeal. It bids fair to be a great success and a musical treat. There will be selections from Gouno, Donizetti, de Beliot, Mendelssohn, etc.

M. C. Couture, laureate of the Conservatoire de Liege, Belgium, will take part in the concert.

Tickets may be had at the College parlor and at Misses Keroack's, Main Street, Winnipeg.

There are fifteen Catholics in the newly elected Parliament of New South Wales.

According to Mother Hartwell, of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, a daughter of General Kuropatkin is living in New York and has been a Catholic for several years. She is highly educated and speaks English as well as Russian.

The census of British India for 1901 shows Catholics as 22 per cent. of the whole European and Eurasian population.

Belgium, a Catholic country, with a population of 7,000,000, has but one pauper to every 1800 of her inhabitants, while Protestant England and Wales finds a pauper for every 38 persons. Since throwing off the yoke of Protestant Holland seventy years ago, Belgium has gained 3,000,000 in population, her government has peacefully solved problems that are agitating the greatest minds in England today, and her people are living in comfort and wealth, with the cheapest and safest railways in the world.

The sisters of the Holy Names have purchased the two-storey brick residence on the southwest corner of St. Mary's avenue and Carlton street as a home for the sisters now teaching in the new parochial school, and the sisters are now residing there.

In an interview with a representative of the "Giornale d'Italia," three weeks ago, M. Emile M. Ollivier, who was Premier under the Second Empire, spoke enthusiastically of the Pope and the position occupied by his Holiness. M. Ollivier said he did not believe that the Concordat would be done away with in France.

The Governments of Brazil and Bolivia have agreed to refer their frontier dispute to the arbitration of the Pope. His Holiness has entrusted the preliminary enquiries to the Nuncio at Rio de Janeiro.

According to the "Petit Parisien," the Vatican is causing to be printed and prepared privately a history of the relations between France and Rome since the Revolution. The aim of this history will, it is said, be to show that a separation would be disadvantageous both for France and the Holy See; but much more so for the former.

Pope Pius X. has addressed an extremely cordial autograph letter to the editor of "La Croix" Paris, thanking him "with affectionate gratitude" for having called forth in the form of letters to his Holiness "a magnificent testimony of attachment to the Holy See." His Holiness adds: "We seize the occasion to pay a tribute of admiration to the devotion you are showing in promoting the circulation of the Catholic Press, whose action at the present time is so powerful for the defence and propagation of the Faith."

An Irish national pilgrimage to the Holy Land is being organized.