

Persons and Facts

We had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. N. D. Beck, of Edmonton, N.W.T. Mr. Beck, who had not been in Winnipeg in seven years, speaks very highly of the progress of our prairie city. The very substantial buildings that have since been and are actually being put up are in his estimation the strongest proof that a great future is ahead of us. Mr. Beck has not lost the deep interest that characterized him as a founder and hearty supporter of the Review, if his valuable co-operation is not quite so near at hand at least we have his best wishes of success and a long life. Mr. Beck returns home Friday.

The secular clergy are having their annual retreat at the St. Boniface College.

We regret to hear of the loss sustained by Mr. Patrick Griffin, in the fire that partly destroyed his lively stable early on Sunday morning. The saddest accident in that fire was the death of John Walker, one of Mr. Griffin's employees, whose charred body was found in the ruins.

Another fire brought havoc to the Arctic Ice Co., in the destruction of one of their large plants, near the Norwood bridge.

The Misses Nina, Alma and Stella Bernhardt left on Tuesday by the Canadian Northern on a trip to Cleveland, Ohio, to their cousin, the Rev. Father Weikel.

The Catholic School Delegates of Winnipeg, Messrs. Deegan and F. W. Russell, left on Tuesday by the C. P. R. on their way to Ottawa. We wish them every success in their important mission.

Solemn Requiem Masses were celebrated on Tuesday at St. Mary's and Wednesday at the Immaculate Conception for the soul of the late pope Leo XIII.

The Teachers Examination returns have been completed on Wednesday. The results, whilst satisfactory to some are sure to prove a great disappointment to the many that have failed to reach the required number of points.

The blessing of the corner stone of the new church to be erected by the Trappists at Notre-Dame-des-Prairies, St. Norbert, will take place next Wednesday, the 5th of August. The ceremony will begin only after the arrival at St. Norbert of the Canadian Northern train in order to give all the Winnipeg friends of the order an opportunity to attend. After the service there will be a dinner served by the ladies of St. Norbert in aid of the new church.

STE. ROSE.

On Wednesday the 22nd, there was a pretty wedding at this place graced by the presence of Archbishop Langevin, who came to marry his youngest brother, Mr. Emil Langevin to Miss Rose Alma Houde. I think all married people might find profit in the discourse he gave. God, in the beginning, he said, created man, and then, to show the intimate union which should subsist between husband and wife, he formed Eve from the very frame of Adam, and their mutual love was the only blessing that remained to them when they were driven out of paradise. A wife is not a servant nor a slave, but, although subject to her husband's authority is councillor, helpmate and friend, she has a share in all his affairs, and should be consulted in all important matters, hers being often the wiser judgment, and less biased by passion; it is also hers in every way to lead the steps of her husband and children heavenwards by prayer, by good example, by every gentle means, and by choosing the right time to influence the father and husband, as did Rebecca of old, thus gaining a blessing for both her sons. Holy church has so much respect for this great sacrament, that she would rather lose kingdoms to the faith than see it invalidated. His Grace explained that the Church looks upon it as one of her most solemn and imposing ceremonies, and sees in Christian marriage the safe-guard

and foundation of society, the rock upon which it is built. When vested in full pontificals, wearing his mitre, and attended by several of his clergy, with his gilded crozier in his hand (emblem of pastoral authority, "Feed my sheep feed my lambs") the Archbishop turned round to give the solemn benediction, in the hush of reverent devotion, the glorious sunshine of July paled the glowing altar lights and one wished for a camera to reproduce the scene. The bride and her maid of honor, Miss Frances Tucker, looked dainty and sweet, both dressed in white. Amidst this joyous celebration the new flag of the Sacred Heart at the Presbytery sadly waved at half mast for the dear pope, dead. R. I. P.

CHRISTLESS LITERATURE.

The Rev Dr. Steele in the New York Christian Advocate criticises severely and justly the eulogies of certain Protestant ministers on Ralph Waldo Emerson, his writings and influence.

Emerson was one among many victims of the rebound from Christianity as represented by the gloomy Calvinism of the New England Puritans. He had too clear a head and too sun-shiny a nature to accept the christianity thus presented to him. It was the only kind he seems to have known anything about. It did not to his mind, meet the problem of human life and destiny. As a consequence he fell back on himself and endeavored to construct a religio-philosophical system to meet his wants and aspirations. The result was what is known as New England transcendentalism, which, so far as it can claim to be a philosophy at all, is a sort of amalgam of the isms of Kant, Schelling and Hegel. This amalgam as exploited by Emerson is a denial root and branch, of the whole Christian system of the Divine economy in relation to man and his destiny.

Dr. Steele says: "Passing by all the other theological errors of this pagan—for he disclaimed the adjective Christian as containing limitations...we will confine our criticism to Emerson's shallow and flippant treatment of sin. He not only fails to recognize the awfulness of sin, but he teaches that in the long run it will turn out to be as good as holiness." In confirmation of this Dr. Steele gives a sentence he heard Emerson utter: "Mankind, whether on the gallows or in the brothel, are ever mounting upward." This destroys all difference between good and evil, vice and virtue. The man who gives food to the hungry and the assassin who cuts a throat are alike "mounting upward." The ultimate cosmic results of their actions will be the same, the highest well-being.

"With this sentence," says Dr. Steele, "clinging like a burr to my memory for more than half a century, the reader may easily imagine the painful emotions awakened in my mind when the pulpit and religious press which are mourning over the spiritual decline of the church and the fewness of conversions, unite in the installation of a Christless literature so baneful to the spiritual life, without adequate notice of its deadly character."

It is worthy the attention of Dr. Steele and of others who recognize the evil influence of Emerson's work, that neither the Catholic pulpit nor the Catholic press united in the installation of Emerson's Christless literature.

NOBLEMEN AS MONKS.

There is a monastery in the depths of the black forest of Germany which claims to be the most aristocratic in the world. All the monks who live there are of noble birth, and many of them bear some of the nobles names to be found in the Almanach de Gotha. The two cooks of the monastery are Prince Edward of Schoonburg-Hartenstein and Prince Philip of Hohenlohe, who filled not so many years ago, two of the highest positions at the German court. The porter, Baron von Draiss, belongs to one of the oldest families of Baden, and among other noblemen who are employed in the most menial tasks are Baron von Sahns, Baron von Oer, and Count Memptirine, all of whom have held high command in the Saxon army.

WHICH SEASON OF LIFE WOULD YOU PREFER?

At a festival of old and young the question was asked: "Which season of life was the most happy?" After being freely discussed by the guests, it was referred for answer to the host, upon whom was the burden of four-score years. He asked if they had noticed a grove of trees before the dwelling, and said: "When the spring comes and in the soft air the buds are breaking on the trees and they are covered with blossoms, I think: 'How beautiful is spring!'" And when the summer comes and covers the trees with its heavy foliage and singing birds are all among the branches, I think: 'How beautiful the summer!' When autumn loads them with golden fruit umn loads them with golden fruit and their leaves bear the gorgeous tint of frost, I think: 'How beautiful is autumn!' And when it is sere winter and there is neither foliage nor fruit, then I look up and through the leafless branches, as I could never until now, I see the stars shining through."—The Leader.

GENERAL JAMES SHIELDS.

An Irishman has, in our national history, a distinction that will probably remain an exceptional one. I allude to the late General James Shields. He was, in his times a United States Senator from three States, Illinois, Minnesota and Missouri, at different periods from 1849 to 1879. What a wonderful carpet bagger he was! The following bit of history may prove interesting. The editor of the "Aberdean (Miss.) Examiner" says: "The famous Palmetto Regiment fought under General Shields in Mexico, and after that war South Carolina presented him with a magnificent sword. In his speech of acceptance he said: 'If ever this blade is unsheathed save in defence of South Carolina, may God strike the arm that wields it from my body,' and the angel that recorded the pledge demanded the penalty in the valley campaign against Jackson."

This is a memorable example of the danger of making rash promises. General Shields was a remarkable man and a very valiant soldier. I am sorry to say that his bronze statue, under the dome of the Washington Capitol, is, in my opinion, a caricature of art.

STATISTICS OF DIVORCE.

If interesting in a way, it is certainly very sad from a Christian and social point of view to read the following:—

For the five years, 1867 to 1871, marriages and divorces were: In England and Wales, marriages 905,000, divorces 724; in Scotland, marriages 115,000, divorces 177; in Ireland, marriages 142,000, divorces 4. For the five years, 1882 to 1886: In England and Wales, marriages 1,009,000, divorces 1,891; in Scotland, marriages 128,000, divorces 390; in Ireland, marriages 108,000, divorces 17.

It is worthy of note that judicial separation only is legal in Ireland, also that of her 5,122,000 inhabitants in 1881, 3,952,000 were Catholics. Coming to home statistics, it is ascertained by our most trusted authorities that the rate of divorce for New South Wales is higher than that of any country of the world, except two, the United States and Switzerland. The parent State is giving bad example to Australasia. For the five years, 1876-80, the rate of divorce per 10,000 marriages was 33.6 in New South Wales. For the five years, 1891-95, it was 27.3.

YOU WILL NEVER BE SORRY

For using gentle words.
For doing your best.
For being kind to the poor.
For looking before leaping.
For hearing before judging.
For thinking before speaking.
For harboring clean thoughts.
For standing by your principles.
For asking pardon when in error.
For being generous to an enemy.
For making others happy.
For being kind to animals.
For showing courtesy to your senior.

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