

# Northwest Review

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## CURRENT COMMENT

While reprinting from the Montreal "Star" a bright, if somewhat superficial, sketch of the late Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, we beg to take explicit exception to two phrases in that article. It speaks of Duffy as "the inferior intellect of the three," the two others being D'Arcy McGee and Thomas Francis Meagher. Duffy's intellect may have been inferior, in some respects to McGee's, although, as a practical statesman, Duffy was McGee's superior, the latter's forte being history, poetry and academic, rather than impassioned oratory. Meagher was a dashing soldier and writer, but, on the whole, somewhat of a light weight, not at all comparable to McGee or Duffy. The other phrase we object to is the "mighty, magnificent, mean old man" as applied by young Irishlanders to O'Connell. This phrase figures oddly in an article which shows how those same young Irishlanders, after boasting that they would die for Ireland, nevertheless did precisely what O'Connell had foretold; they took good care to live for Ireland, but at a safe distance. The epithet "mean" as applied to O'Connell really recoils upon the young and thoughtless fire-eaters who used it. There was nothing mean in O'Connell's dictum that no agitation was worth a drop of blood, but there was a strict conscientiousness which the young Irishlanders were unable to appreciate.

We publish this week a very important paper on Indian Dances, prepared especially for our columns. The department of Indian affairs is strongly opposed to dances which, as our article shows, have a most degrading and immoral tendency. But Indian Agents meet with considerable opposition from some ill informed whites won over by retrograde Indians. Hence the importance of exposing the evil influence of all Indian dances. One famous writer has well said that they are the bulwarks of Indian savagery.

On our editorial page will be found a carefully thought-out article on the present state of the Rhodes scholarships. This article will be useful for future reference, as it contains several quotations from Mr. Rhodes himself and not a few sidelights hitherto unpublished. Here we need only say that this whole question is particularly interesting to those who have some knowledge, through books or experience, of English life and who entertain some feelings of admiration for an imperial race, even though they may not claim any kinship therewith. Dr. Parkin's conferences with leaders of education in the United States are a startling revelation of the vast complexity but also of the substantial unity of aims in the English speaking world.

The anti-Catholic animus of Havergal Ladies College in this city may be gathered from Miss Cramp's choice of a subject for her lecture on the 20th inst. She chose "Savonarola," which, of course, gave her an opportunity for a fling at the then reigning Pope. Savonarola is a favorite subject for Protestant lecturers. They fancy they can claim him for a kindred spirit; but most of them know nothing of his ascetic life, of his mistaken, though deeply Catholic zeal. However, better informed Protestants are beginning to recognize that he was not one of them. The Universal Cyclopaedia

says: "It is incorrect to speak of him as a 'reformer before the Reformation,' for he had no thought of leaving or opposing the Church." But Miss Cramp, in spite of her name, is not cramped by any such considerations, and recklessly affirms that Savonarola "freed his convent from the clutches of the Church." Nor does she hesitate to assert that he "was burned to death in the great square of St. Mark's," although conscientious Protestant Historians say that he was hanged to death and that his body was burned after death, which is a very different thing. This is a sample of the way in which Havergal strives to atone for the acknowledged failure of its attempts at solid education by a profusion of fashionable frills and superficial lectures. There is one degree of ignorance which consists in not being aware that there are two sides of a question of history. The real facts about Savonarola are not yet cleared up. Even among Catholics the two most recent biographies of him—Father O'Neill's and Father H. Lucas's—do not agree. "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread," and "wrens make prey where eagles dare not perch."

In praising Dr. Parkin as admirably suited for the organization of the Rhodes scholarships we do not intend to indorse his Imperial Federation ideas. We freely give him the credit of being one of the pioneers in that line, one who was a fervent Imperialist before that had become fashionable; but we are convinced that he is historically wrong. The British Empire has never done anything more for Canada than for any other country that does business with it. Or rather yes, it has done something; it has twice made Canada the battlefield of its struggles with the United States and once at least, at the time of the Trent affair, brought us to the verge of war. Moreover, it is just now preparing to sacrifice Canadian interests in the Alaskan Boundary affair. Imperial interests are continually conflicting with ours, and yet Dr. Parker wants us to become Imperialists.

Dr. Parkin is himself the best living example of the advantage of going to Oxford. Had he not spent several years as a student in that great university he would probably never have known the present Lord Milner and would therefore probab-ly connection with the Rhodes scholarships. But he becomes an Oxford student, he there meets Milner and Asquith; Milner, thirty years later, becomes one of Rhodes's trustees and of course the first man he thinks of as knowing England and the colonies very well is his friend Parkin.

Dr. Parkin was greatly impressed with the terrible nature of the negro problem in the Southern States. He wished the colored college president, Booker Washington, one of the sanest and ablest men in the United States, to be present at his conference with white educationists; but the latter refused to be present if Booker Washington came. Nobody among our neighbors to the south can offer any solution to the problem—how to deal with ten millions of colored people. Dr. Parkin says truly that, if there were no other reason against annexation, this would be a sufficient one to keep Canada away from union with a republic haunted by so menacing a spectre.

We wish somebody would clear up the mystery surrounding Mr. de Blowitz's religion. The Catholic

Times, of Liverpool, says the funeral of Mr. de Blowitz took place at the Church of St. Honore d'Eylau, Paris, on Jan. 21. Now this is the very church where, just a month later, February 21, Major McBride, a Catholic, was married to Maude Gonno, a convert; therefore St. Honore d'Eylau is a Catholic Church; therefore de Blowitz died a Catholic. Furthermore, the same number of the Catholic Times mentions, but only incidentally, that a priest prepared the late "Times" correspondent for death. This is the item:—"Father Columban Tyne, the priest who attended M. de Blowitz, the late correspondent of the London "Times" in Paris, and prepared him for death, was born in Gortnahoe, near Thurles, and received a journalistic training in Kilkenny and Colmel under Mr. J. J. Long, editor of the "Nationalist." He was for years a member of the Colmel "Nationalist" staff, until he left to begin his studies for the priesthood at the College of St. Thomas of Aquin, Newbridge."

We heartily recommend for careful perusal and earnest practice the General Intention for March in the Canadian Messenger of the Sacred Heart. The editor shows how devotion to St. Joseph, the foster-father of Our Lord, is the best safe guard for the child, the young girl, the mother, the working man and the entire Christian family.

After writing the paragraph on de Blowitz, we came across the latest issue of the "Ave Maria" (Feb. 21), which settles the question of his religious convictions. "His death was as serene as his life had been strenuous and eventful. He received the Last Sacraments with the greatest devotion, after which, again and again with edifying fervor, he kissed the crucifix—an object of piety that always hung upon his wall; and, drawing forth two medals of the Blessed Virgin which were constantly suspended about his neck, he pressed them to his lips with all possible veneration." Moreover the Tablet, from which we culled the Pilot's adverse criticism, now prints what its French correspondent writes as follows:

He died the death of a good Catholic. Only a few weeks ago he penned a vigorous defence of the English Passionist Fathers in the Avenue Hoche, who are threatened by the government with expulsion, and it was to them that he turned in his last illness for the last consolations of religion. The last Sacraments were administered to him by Father Columban Tyne. De Blowitz was so well known that many asked to be admitted to the chamber where his body lay awaiting burial. His successor thus described the scene in the Times: "Over his head, under the crucifix which always hangs upon the wall, has been placed the precious manuscript of the Papal benediction signed by Leo XIII., which has been for several years a comfort to our late correspondent. It is interesting to note in this connection, and also especially at this moment when certain Paris papers speak of M. de Blowitz as a Jew, that among the papers that were found accompanying his will was one attesting his Christian baptism at Blowitz, in the government district of Pilsen, in Austria."

We give thanks to God that our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII. was able to celebrate on the 20th inst., the silver jubilee of his election to the Papal Chair. The cables tell

that he bore the solemn function without undue fatigue. He is reported to have exclaimed on returning to his apartments: "This is really the happiest day of my life." When His Holiness entered the Hall of Beatification, above the portico of St. Peter's, he wore the golden tiara presented to him that very morning. A great roar of "Long live Leo" and "Long Live the Pope King" announced his arrival. He bestowed his blessing right and left as he passed through the cheering crowd, whose enthusiasm was so great and whose desire to touch the hem of the Pope's robes was so intense that the presence of the guards seemed really necessary for his protection.

## Clerical News

His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface returned last Monday from Qu'Appelle, where he confirmed 73 Indian children and two aged Sioux women.

Rev. Father Cherrier changed his mind and accompanied Rev. Father Jolys to New Orleans for the Mardi Gras celebration. He will not be here till the second Sunday in Lent.

The Very Rev. J. A. Zahm, Provincial of the Congregation of the Holy Cross of America, whose headquarters are at Notre Dame, Ind., has gone to Paris to look after the interests of his order in France, which, in accordance with the terms of the Association's law, is liable to confiscation at the hands of the French government.

Rev. Fathers Bourret and Martin were the Archbishop's guests last Monday.

Father Antoine, Trappist (formerly Viscount d'Anbigny d'Assy), returned from France early this week. He says the Oblate Fathers at the Mother House in Paris are getting ready for exile, so much so that they have already disposed of their beds; when he passed through they had only one to spare.

Rev. Mr. Therriault was ordained deacon by His Grace last Tuesday and will probably be ordained priest next Sunday.

His Grace the Archbishop of Melitene, Mgr. de Neckere, who was 78 years of age, fell down a flight of stairs on Jan. 30, and was killed on the spot.

Monsignor Menini, Apostolic Delegate at Sofia, has just returned to Rome from Bulgaria. He considers the situation in the Balkans very threatening, and expects a general rising in Macedonia in the spring, but political circles in Rome entertain optimistic views, and disbelieve in the isolated military intervention of Russia and Austria.

Though Leo XIII. has many relatives, no one can say that they have profited by his wealth and dignity. The eldest of his three nephews, Ludovico Pecci, who lives at Carpineto, is very studious and sometimes receives a package of books from his uncle.

He is truly great that is little in himself, and that maketh no account of any height of honor.—Thomas A' Kempis.

## THE POPE'S JUBILEE AT THE HOLY GHOST SCHOOL.

Friday, 20th of February, was a great day for the children of the Holy Ghost School. They celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Pontificate of Leo XIII. High Mass was sung at 9 a.m., the church being pretty well filled with parents and friends. At 3.00 p.m. in the large hall of the school an entertainment was provided for the children and parents who wished to attend. English Polish, and German songs and recitations passed off without a hitch, and after a few words by Rev. Wm. Kulawy on the Pope's Jubilee each of the pupils received a picture of His Holiness. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament ended this great day, and all prayed that God may spare our beloved Pope for many years yet.

## ST. BONIFACE COLLEGE MUSICAL CLUB.

At a meeting called by Rev. Fr. de Mangaleere on Monday, Feb. 23, for the purpose of organizing a musical club, the Rev. Father opened the proceedings by a few words on the necessity and many advantages of such an association in a college, showing how much could be accomplished by the good will of the members. He then called attention to the principal articles of the rules, all of which had already been read by all present, and insisted upon the regular attendance of all members, "for," said he, "it is only through perseverance that any satisfactory progress can be made in music." It was agreed that the name of this association would be St. Cecilia's Musical Club, and that it would be under the direction of the Rev. Fr. Director, and that the officers to be elected were a president, secretary and two councillors. After the duties of the several officers had been pointed out, the elections took place, all the officers being chosen unanimously. J. B. Tremblay was chosen president and in a few words expressed his gratitude to all for their good will towards him and said that though he believed a better choice might have been made, yet he would do his utmost to make the club a success and promote in every possible manner its interests. H. L. Cormier was chosen secretary and after heartily thanking the members he expressed the hope that everyone would join with himself and other officers to make the organization a grand success. A Baupre and A. Dupas were chosen councillors and each in turn expressed their thanks for being honored with these positions. The work on hand having been completed the meeting was adjourned. The club numbers thirty-nine members. Rev. Fr. de Mangaleere deserves much praise for the important part he has played in the organization of this important feature of the college. He has ever been untiring in his efforts to impart a thorough knowledge of music and a true appreciation of this noblest and most inspiring of fine arts.

## FOUGHT WITH JOUBERT.

Major McBride lives in Paris. He was one of the conspicuous figures of the Boer war. He organized the redoubtable Irish brigade and fought with Joubert before Ladysmith. It was Major McBride who at the first invasion by the Boers over the border of Natal roused the unbounded enthusiasm of the burgher forces by carrying an Irish flag into British territory and waving it proudly about his head. At that time it was suggested to elect him to parliament to fill the seat vacated by the resignation of Michael Davitt.