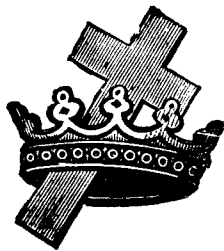


Northwest Review.



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CURRENT COMMENT

The latest addition to our exchange list is "The Catholic Northwest," published monthly at Seattle. It is a large quarto, 13 inches by 10, of twenty pages, full of interesting and instructive matter. The editors are Martina Johnston and Geo. K. McCord; the former signs a well written short story, which shows a practised hand. The editorials, unlike too many first number paeans, reveal a modest and craftsmanlike appreciation of the difficulties that beset the Catholic journalist. The get-up of this new monthly is remarkably attractive and neat. The cover is filled with a truly admirable portrait of the Right Rev. Edward J. O'Dea, Bishop of Nesqually, the name of the diocese that takes in the whole of Washington state. There are also good portraits of four prominent pastors, a view of the Providence Hospital, conducted by a Canadian order, the Providence Sisters of Montreal, and also a view of the Sacred Heart School.

Canadians were the first resident missionaries in the territory which the "Catholic Northwest" is intended to cover. That heroic old pioneer, Father A. M. A. Blanchet, went to what is now the State of Washington even before Father Tache came to St. Boniface; he was consecrated Bishop of Walla Walla as early as 1846, and transferred to the see of Nesqually in 1850. At the present day the last surviving member of that devoted band of missionary priests who evangelized Washington between sixty and forty years ago is the French Canadian Father F. N. Prefontaine, whose portrait proves him to be still hale and hearty.

We learn from this first number of the "Catholic Northwest" that there are nearly one hundred thousand Catholics in the state of Washington and that "they constitute one eighth of the entire population of this section of our country." Our new contemporary, which sends its copies to the principal towns, not only of Washington, but also of Idaho and British Columbia, has, we trust, a fine field before it.

Speaking of a Seattle Presbyterian minister who made a notable innovation at the end of last month by celebrating Christmas in his church, the "Catholic Northwest" says "there are persons now living who can remember when it was a visible sign of papistry to celebrate Our Saviour's birth. The great influx of Irish and German emigrants during the last half century has changed all this. . . . Nothing could illustrate the leavening power of the Catholic Church more aptly than the contrast between the Christmas of fifty years ago, and that of the present day."

Under the heading "He Knows now," the editor of the Seattle contemporary writes:—

By the death of Herbert Spencer, one of the foremost prophets of agnosticism is removed from the sphere of abstract speculations to the realm of actual realities.

Few men have done more than he during his long life to undermine faith in God and revealed religion, and to sow the seeds of unbelief in enquiring minds.

The utmost he would concede to the Almighty Creator of the universe—and this only in his later years—was to acknowledge that there is a force which he termed the "Unknowable," behind nature.

The veil has been lifted and he knows now.

The "Tablet" of the 9th inst. translates from "Le Vingtieme Siecle," of Brussels, an article by Mgr. Merlier, rector of the Higher Philosophical Institute of Louvain University, which confirms the view we gave last week of Herbert Spencer's work. Among other good points made by Mgr. Merlier is this: "Herbert Spencer was not an original thinker, although he thought he was. He has not given his name to any discovery. He is neither a geologist like Lyell, nor a naturalist like Darwin, nor a physiologist like Huxley. But he had a marvellous knowledge of the observations of others. He was a prodigious collector of ideas and facts. He selected with sagacity from the documents which his co-workers compiled for him. He made the most of them in order to draw from them certain generalizations more or less felicitous; but the threads running through these generalizations were always borrowed from the prevailing philosophies of the day. He was no more a creator in matters of philosophy than in the sciences. Speaking of him in a work published in 1888, I summed up an appreciation of him in these words: 'Herbert Spencer is an electric rather than an original thinker.' On June 13 of the same year, some weeks after my book had appeared, the venerable old man wrote me a letter, a very kindly one to boot, in which he complained, with more candor than disingenuousness, 'of the inferior part I had made him play. He referred me back to some passages of his Principles of Biology, and of his Principles of Psychology, in which he was confident could be found traces of original discoveries. I made then, a fresh examination of these passages, but the result only confirmed my former judgment.' This testimony is the more valuable as it comes from one who has wide experience in Herbert Spencer's special field, philosophy.

Mgr. Merlier adds: "The distinguished man had the disappointment of seeing the glory of his star diminish as the end of his life drew nearer. At the present time his influence lives yet in certain parts of the United States, but in England and Scotland he is out of date. One of his compatriots, James Ward, a Cambridge professor, has attacked him severely in his Gifford Lectures at Aberdeen. Germany has hardly known him. . . . The Spencerian theory of cosmic evolution is universally regarded today as a romance. People are amused at the plasticity of his terminology. His critical philosophy starts from idealism, and leads its author to a transfigured realism, a sort of hybrid theory in which idealism, monism, and mechanical positivism meet without being able to arrange themselves into one doctrinal system. Finally, beyond knowable phenomena, Spencer is inevitably hurried on to posit an 'unknowable,' the properties of which, nevertheless, he took pleasure in describing. Thus the dream of the English philosopher has not been realized."

In conclusion Mgr. Merlier thinks he sees in Herbert Spencer's last book, "Tracts and Comments," some hope that he really put to himself the question of the life beyond the grave, and that he seems to have had an inkling of the infinite.

Cablegrams are again busy with the Holy Father's health. This amuses him. He thinks it is a good sign and may prolong his life. But the most stupid of these canards is the rumor that he is worried about the method of his election, and is thinking about abdication. The slenderness of the foundation upon which this rumor

is built may be judged from the fact that, at the request of all the Cardinals present in Rome, the Sovereign Pontiff has killed any future veto in any future conclave by decreeing excommunication against the bearer thereof. This decree may not be published till the next conclave. But the Tablet Rome correspondent vouches for its existence.

The Rome correspondent of "La Semaine Religieuse de Montreal" explodes the story of the \$1,800,000 in gold hidden by Leo XIII. The explosion is brought about by simple arithmetic. That amount of gold would weigh about 7,000 pounds and would fill a forty gallon keg. Yet we were told that the late Pope carried this sum in a small satchel and placed it in a small cavity in the wall where an electrician found it by the merest chance. How silly to publish such cock-and-bull tales without even a note of interrogation.

During the record cold spell of last Sunday, the severest in six years, we read a good deal about the mercury dropping to 42 below zero in well tested thermometers. But experts tell us that mercury thermometers are not trustworthy when the cold sinks lower than ten degrees below zero, because the mercury is then too near its freezing point, which is 38.8 below zero. Alcohol thermometers are the only reliable ones in these low temperatures. Perhaps, however, the newspaper scribes use the word "mercury" figuratively, as a synonym for "thermometer."

"La Semaine Religieuse de Quebec" quotes from "La Semaine Catholique de Toulouse" a prophecy made in 1845 by the saintly Cure d'Arns, M. Vianney, to a nun who is still living, and is now 73 years old. After telling her that she would become a nun—she was then fifteen—and serve in the hospitals of the Crimean and Italian wars, as she did nine and fourteen years afterwards, he added: "You shall see the new century 1900. The first years will be disastrous; religion will be persecuted during the years 1, 2, 3, and 4. After that God will intercede (Dieu y mettra la main) and peace will be restored to the Church." The parish priest declares that, for many years past this nun has been repeating this prophecy in the very same words. Her testimony has been written down and entered among the papers prepared for the beatification of the venerable Cure d'Arns, who died in 1859.

Persons and Facts

Princess Mathilde Bonaparte, the daughter of Jerome Bonaparte, and the last surviving niece of Napoleon I, died in Paris on Saturday evening, January 2. The Princess, who was born in 1820, was a leading figure in Parisian society.

Count Arthur John Moore, formerly Nationalist Member of Parliament for Londonderry City, died on Tuesday, January 5, after a short illness at his residence, Mooresfort, County Tipperary. Count Moore was born in 1849, and in his twenty-fifth year entered parliament as representative of Clonmel, for which he continued to sit until 1885. In 1878 he was appointed to be High Sheriff of County Tipperary. From 1899 to 1900 he represented Londonderry City as a Home Ruler. In the latter year a fierce and close contest resulted in his defeat by the Marquis of Hamilton, by the small majority of 67. After his retirement, Count Moore continued to take an active interest in politics, and was a member of the board of directors of the "Daily Independent

and Nation." In the House of Commons he devoted special attention to the interests of Catholics, and, in fact, throughout life was ever anxious to be of service to the Church. As a speaker at Catholic meetings in England and Ireland, he was much appreciated, and the news of his death will cause deep regret amongst his coreligionists. In 1879 the late Pope appointed him Count of the Holy Roman Empire and Commander of the Order of St. Gregory. Count Moore was a member of the board of the Department of Agriculture, and was several years president of the Irish Dairy Association. He married in 1877 a daughter of Sir Charles Clifford.

The new member for the Ludlow Division, England, Mr. Rowland Hunt, was received into the Catholic Church by Father Cator at the London Oratory, in 1899.

During the year for which the Education Act has been in operation, out of 334 authorities set up for the control of elementary education, all but 32 have put the Act in practical administration in their respective areas, about one third of these latter being recalcitrant authorities in Wales, who openly avow a policy of starving the Voluntary schools, in defiance of both the letter and the spirit of the law.—Catholic Times (England).

Enthusiasm is being manifested at Madrid, in the idea, first proposed by the "Imparcial," to organize for May, 1905, a national celebration of the third centenary of the publication of Don Quixote. A royal decree has just appeared in the "Gaceta" associating King and Government with this movement, which will undoubtedly arouse a genuinely popular interest.

Miss Louise Drew, daughter of John Drew, was received into the Catholic Church last week. She was baptised at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle, by Rev. H. E. O'Keeffe, C. S. P.

Professor E. B. Kenrick, of Manitoba University, has been offered by the United States Department of Agriculture, the post of referee on saccharine products. Mr. Kenrick's skill as a practical chemist has won this distinguished recognition from Dr. Bigelow, chief of the Food Bureau.

Sister Philomena (Mary Keating) Mother Superior of Mercy Hospital, Des Moines, Ia., is heir to one fifth of an estate of fifteen million dollars, left by her uncle, John McCormick, who died in Australia two years ago. Two brothers and two sisters at Davenport will share the fortune with Sister Philomena.

There were several weddings at St. Boniface this week. On Monday Rev. Dr. Trudel blessed the nuptials of Mr. J. A. Cusson and Miss Marie Louise Couture, both of St. Boniface, and Miss Ouellette of St. Boniface, and Mr. Richard, of Wild Rice, N. D. On Wednesday Rev. A. Rousseau did the same for Miss Olive Goulet, of St. Boniface, and Mr. Bourgoin, of Laurier, Man.

It is a curious coincidence that Martin J. Griffin, Parliamentary Librarian at Ottawa is one of the best authorities on history in Canada, and Martin I. J. Griffin, of Philadelphia, is one of the best authorities on the history of the United States.

Clerical News.

The Very Rev. H. Leduc, O. M. I. V. G., of Edmonton came here last week, and went on to Montreal

early this week, on business connected with a future Catholic college at Edmonton.

Rev. J. C. Sinnett, late of Sheenboro, Que., and formerly at Portage la Prairie and Regina, has accepted the post of Vicar General of his Lordship Bishop Pascal, of Prince Albert.

Rev. Richard Van de Velde, arrived from Belgium at the end of last week, and is now at the Archbishop's residence. He will probably take charge of the Flemings in this neighborhood. Father Van de Velde speaks both French and Flemish perfectly. There are about two hundred Flemings here and will welcome sermons in their own tongue.

Rev. J. Dugas, S. J., Rector of St. Boniface College, said Mass at Pembina last Sunday, returning on Monday. The thermometers in the border town registered 50 below zero on that day. Father Dugas and Father Lavigne, who had said Mass at Joliette, and returned to Pembina by the delayed train were guests of Judge Conney.

Rev. Father Rousseau, of Laurier was here in the beginning of the week.

Rev. Father Blesson, lately assistant at the Cathedral, has entered the trappist monastery at Gethsemane, Kentucky. One of his brothers is a Trappist at St. Norbert, Man.

Rev. Father Proulx, S. J., returned from St. Jean Baptiste on Tuesday.

Regina Notes.

Rev. Father Suffa, O. M. I., spent Sunday at Mariahill, thirty miles north of Grenfell. Rev. Father Kim, O. M. I., said Mass at Lumsden. The Rev. Father made preliminary arrangements in connection with the erection of a new church in Lumsden. Rev. M. J. Kasper, celebrated High Mass at half past nine, and gave a sermon in German, and at eleven o'clock sang a High Mass and preached in English from the seventh chapter of Luke and fifteenth verse:—"And they gave him to his Mother."—His sermon on "The power of Mothers over the heart of the Saviour," was a most eloquent one, and those mothers privileged on Sunday to hear Father Kasper's touching address will never forget it. The learned Father introduced his subject by referring to the feast of the day: "Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and as we pronounce the word 'family' our thoughts at once carry us back to the scenes of our childhood, to the dear spot we call our home, and before the eyes of our mind appears that being, the joy of our hearts, the sun of our life, the centre of all our thoughts and affections, and the name of that deified being—so full of the sweetest recollections, you have guessed already, it is the name of Mother! Oh! if all mothers only understood the power they have over the heart of God, if all mothers understood their noble vocation, if all only did the duty assigned them in the plan of Divine Providence, how many more saints in Heaven, how many less sinners in hell! How many a wayward son would be given back to his mother; how many a dead, spiritually dead child would be restored to life, to the life of grace, to the Church of God. The Rev. Father continued to say that innumerable miracles are wrought by the intercession of a mother's prayers, and her power over the heart of God is beautifully illustrated by the miracle of Nain. In a most touching manner did the