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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1899

The Doukhobors

It is time that we took some steps to better the condition of our new colonists, who have settled on the out skirts in Assinaboua. We do not refer to their physical efforts, for these are now being attended to by philanthropic friends, who have interested themselves in the Doukhobors; we would mention rather their educational and spiritual needs. We are told for instance by Hall Bernard, who has visited these people in their houses and studied their wants, that only a very small percentage can read in their mother tongue. They are, however, most anxious to have English. Here, then, is a grand opportunity for us to come voluntarily forward and establish Catholic Schools in their midst. It would not be expensive; for they are gathered together in small villages or groups of families; with their farms spread round about; a wise provision on the lovely prairie. Now is the time to act, while their children are commencing to learn English. The channel into which their thoughts are now directed will govern them for generations. They are a conservative people. Their honesty and simplicity are remarkable and those who have had business with them, have not found their trust abused. Taught to work, though as yet destitute of even the necessities of life, are almost invariably adorned with a statue of the Blessed Virgin, to whom they have the greatest devotion. However humble the peasant, and often it is but a scanty one of bread, they invariably render thanks to God for the morsels and the homes He has given them in their adopted country. Their simple faith is touching. It is an object lesson to us Canadians.

Lynch Law

It has been said that the tigress is but asleep in woman, and lest the noble part of the human race might escape the lash it has been observed that civilization is only skin deep; that the savage reigns in the heart of man. It would appear to be true. The old saws are not so very wrong after all. The journals of the past few days have contained the most revolting details of lynchings in the Southern States, where the shift of the negro is short if he offends the noble white. We have pitied the lot of the negro in the barbarous days of the slave trade, and hailed his happy deliverance. Whatever his crime, the slave was generally decently shot or hanged by his master. To-day he is burned at the stake.

Our neighbors for the sake of humanity were impelled to the Spanish war. The Cuban's were caught under the protesting wing—unwillingly; still more so the naughty Philipines. Ingrati, not to welcome the blessedness of American rule! Well might they enquire what manner of justice they should get. "The mob did not commit their revolting act on the impulse of the moment; lynch law is too frequent for us to believe that. It was the deliberate nature of the act which makes us shudder. The women looked on and applauded. The children heaped the fire.

The Indian savage was some times merciful—the women frequently so, no hope, however, for the negro when in the hands of a mob. The lamentable feature about this ugly business is the presence of the children. What can be expected of a man who as a child has assisted at such a pastime; who has been applauded for his energy! The mothers will have much to answer for, who allow the infant minds to be tainted and their passions aroused by such a ghastly spectacle. Let them keep their children at home.

South Africa.

We are now about to commence the third stage of the war. The recent landing of the powerful howitzers is considered by the experts to be the signal for the advance. To Canadians the word has a meaning that it never before conveyed. An ominous word, when in front, are the guns and rifles of the active stubborn Boer; entrenched on his Kopje. A word that warns our Northern blood and brings a tear of pride to the Canadian eye. Our thousand brothers are there; brigaded with best of England's army. The Black Watch have the traditions of two hundred years to sustain; the Highlanders are flushed with the victories of recent wars. It was an unexpected honor for our boys to have such fighting comrades.

Manitoba Elections.

The general elections in Manitoba resulted in a majority of six for the Conservatives. There were surprises and counter-surprises. The most notable feature of the fight was the falling of two of the Ministers of the former Government. It is apparent that the railway policy of the Conservatives was the winning card in the game; and that the other issues were subordinate to this. The French supported the Government, and in what are termed French districts, the Liberal candidates were returned. High John Macdonald's cabinet has not yet been announced, but Roblin and Davidson are spoken of as his coadjutors. There will also be two other ministers without portfolios and without salaries, it being one of the planks of the Conservative platform to cut down expenses of government. High John said he was pleased with the Christiana box presented to them by the Province.

French Passion.

Our (over)zealous French friends, those of the old land, we mean, are doing their utmost at present to whip themselves into a rage against England. Why, we know not; and neither do they. It can hardly be that England has offended their sensitive relatives by any covert act of late, for her attention is quite occupied with her own little business in the south. It can hardly be envy that is prompting the outbreak, for she has looked upon our acquisitions with more or less equanimity, except when we had occasion to jostle her a little in the game. The Fashoda trespass caused her to babble with wrath, and we appreciated her angry threats; but at present our business is thousands of miles distant from her sphere of influence. Wherein then are we offending.

The question was solved nearly two thousand years ago by a soldier grim, shrewd and laconic. He visited their country with his legions, and summed them up in three words, stabant novis robus, they are always on the look out for a change, or as Carlyle translates it, they are always enquiring what's next. A foolish to worship or an enemy to hate. It matters little which; but something now at all costs. First, a Marchand is the hero of the hour; then, in unhappy contrast, a Dreyfus is produced. Now it is England which is the butt for their gybes. With true Ferian instincts they strike where we resent it most, for they are attacking our renowned and aged Sovereign in a scurrilous and disgusting manner.

The correspondent of the London Daily Mail says: It is impossible to describe the gross caricatures that are being published by certain French papers, of the Royal family, and more particularly of the head of the Royal family. They surpass all bounds of decency; no French paper shop in England would dare to exhibit them, simply because of the English law against such publications, for they are ten times worse than the coarsest picture that has ever defiled the lowest type of English Police Gazette. The letter press that accompanies these caricatures is just as vile.

Luckily English attention is at present directed elsewhere, and these attacks are not having the effect that one would suppose. But it is a dangerous game, this wanton provocation. It is but just to say that the more sober journals are standing aloof and refrain from criticism; and the better French element deprecates the outbreak. The fever will no doubt wear itself out in due course, and we do not anticipate any serious result; but we deplore the strained relations that such an attack is sure to occasion.

Ontario Bye Elections.

The Ontario bye-election broke even as the racing jargon has it, with again of one seat by the Conservatives. They scored successes in East and West Elgin, and the Government carried South Ontario and South Brant. The elections were hotly contested, and both parties no doubt will be well satisfied with their division of the spoils.

St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The general meeting of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, was held in St. John's Chapel, Church Street, last Sunday afternoon. The Society was favored with the presence of His Grace Archbishop O'Connor. Rev. F. Ryan, Rector of the Cathedral, Rev. F. Rohleder, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, Rev. Fathers Hand, Rector of St. Paul's, and Rev. Professor Murray, O.S.B., of Michael's College. A general number of members were present, including President Joseph J. Murphy, Vice-President, Alexander MacDonnell; Secretary, John P. McCarthy; Treasurer, Hugh T. Kelly, of the Central Council; and James E. Winters, ex-Aid. Patrick H. Free (Secretary Children's Aid Society), John J. Doyle, Fred Beale, Wm. Hay, W. Moran, W. J. Fulton, M. Duffy, J. Carson, R. Sibley, M. Dussan, and many others.

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Forty Hour Devotion at Trout Creek

The most successful Forty-Hours in the history of Sacred Heart Church, Trout Creek, Ont., parish began on Monday last week at 10 a. m., with solemn High Mass, at which the Rev. R. F. Collins, P. P. Brantford, was celebrant; Rev. D. J. Scollard, P. P., North Bay, deacon, and the Rev. Father F. A. Kelly, sub-deacon. The Rev. celebrant chanted the litany. There was a grand procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the altar, and altar boys and members of the C. M. B. A. participated. The Rev. pastor of North Bay preached an instructive sermon on "The Eternal Reward." At the devotions in the evening, Father Collins delivered a powerful sermon on "The Real Presence." The Missa Pro Pace Tuesday at 9.30 a. m., was celebrated by Father Scollard, assisted by Rev. Father Martel, assisted by Rev. Father John J. O'Brien, Sturgeon Falls, as sub-deacon. Rev. Father O'Brien gave an elegant and forceful sermon on "The Promise and Institution of the Blessed Eucharist." Tuesday evening, Father H. Martel spoke on the necessity of following the good resolution acquired during the evening exercises. Wednesday, at 10 o'clock, the Solemn High Mass of Reparation was sung by Father O'Brien, assisted by Fathers Collins and Kelly, as deacon and sub-deacon, respectively. The rector preached on "Perseverance." He urged the vast congregation present to persevere in this time of grace, so precious to their immortal souls, and not to ever lose the graces and benedictions obtained during the forty hours, but to continue the good work that they so well performed this five days in the Holy Sacrament on the Altar, and asking Him for graces to persevere until the end, and be saved. The holy exercises came to a close by chanting the litany, carrying the Adorable Host in procession, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by the "Te Deum." Five priests assisted our pastor with the devotions. The attendance at all the devotions and the sacraments was larger than any ever witnessed, which shows that the League of the Holy Heart is doing excellent work among the parishioners of this parish.

Mr. Murphy read a letter from His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII, to the President general which gave proofs of continuing interest in the society's work. A number of Cardinal prelates in connection with the former, and the President also noticed the selection by the Holy Father of the Society's works as the subject of the general intention for October, of the League of the Sacred Heart. Continuing interest in the Society's work, and then turned his attention to the prospects of the society's night school.

Mr. President announced that one year hence the Society will celebrate its Golden Jubilee in Canada. He advised a number of suggestions, and suggested marking the jubilee by the establishment of an institution for young men. He sketched briefly what could be done in this city, and the necessity existed for a central institution, properly equipped for the study of the sciences, and especially called on the Conference prelates for a few remarks as to the conditions of their Conferences.

Messrs. Kieley, of Our Lady; Hynes, of St. Paul's; Madonell, of St. Patrick's; Greener, of St. Mary's; Hynes, of St. Joseph's; Hynes, of the Sacred Heart; H. T. Kelly, of St. Basil's; Pape, of St. Joseph's, then addressed the meeting, and reported a very satisfactory state of affairs. Summed up they said the various Conferences had four months less attendance so far. This was similar to that in previous years, owing to the open weather and the comparatively small number of unemployed, also that their various Conferences funds were in good condition.

Father Ryan spoke to the members. He coincided with what had been said of the absolute need in the central portion of the city, for an institution of a social, educational and protective character for young men, instancing what St. Michael's L. & A. Association is doing in that line. His Grace, on rising, expressed himself much pleased by what he had heard. He said that for work such as the society was doing, many were called, but few chosen; and he thought this was the secret of the wonderful success which attended the society's efforts.

In the matter of membership, His Grace also said, efforts should be put forth to select good young men for the work. In course of time the present members would retire, and the right material would have to be forthcoming to succeed them. He quoted and emphasized the Holy Fathers advice that the members observe diligent piety, and help as far as possible into describing poor.

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The general meeting of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, was held in St. John's Chapel, Church Street, last Sunday afternoon. The Society was favored with the presence of His Grace Archbishop O'Connor. Rev. F. Ryan, Rector of the Cathedral, Rev. F. Rohleder, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, Rev. Fathers Hand, Rector of St. Paul's, and Rev. Professor Murray, O.S.B., of Michael's College. A general number of members were present, including President Joseph J. Murphy, Vice-President, Alexander MacDonnell; Secretary, John P. McCarthy; Treasurer, Hugh T. Kelly, of the Central Council; and James E. Winters, ex-Aid. Patrick H. Free (Secretary Children's Aid Society), John J. Doyle, Fred Beale, Wm. Hay, W. Moran, W. J. Fulton, M. Duffy, J. Carson, R. Sibley, M. Dussan, and many others.

Knights of St. John Elections.

St. Paul's Commandery, Knights of St. John, at their meeting yesterday, elected the following Board of Officers for 1899-1900: President, Vincent W. S. McCarthy; X First Vice-President, F. J. McGintie; X Second Vice-President, Charles W. Dawey; Financial Secretary, M. K. McGuinn; Treasurer, Donald Gansner; Messenger, Patrick Egan; Guard, Philip L. Smith; Recorder, James W. O'Connor; and Auditor, P. J. O'Connor.

Board of Trustees: T. K. Haffey, Chairman; C. W. Dawey, Hugh Coffey, James Casey and Philip L. Smith.

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Latest War Despatches.

The War Office has issued additional details regarding the defeat of the German at Stormberg on Sunday. The general explains that the distance had been underestimated by himself and the local guides. The force had been reformed from a disorganized and weary force in an impossible position. It does not consider the error intentional. The Boers fired from the top of an unscalable hill and wounded a good many of our men. The Boers were in the open plain, and the enemy, but failed. The second Irish Brigade struck a large force near and held on. The British Gen. Buller's force, could not have been defeated and could not be reformed. The British force was about 200, as previously reported.

The sortie from Ladysmith on Friday, when the British destroyed a Boer gun on Lombard's Kop was not without British losses. The British were surprised by the attack of Col. Metcalfe, who had been ordered to attack the British retirement line by the Boers, but he forced his way back using bayonets freely. The British losses were considerable, but the British losses were as follows: Lieut. Ferguson and 11 men killed; Capt. Kelly, Second Lieutenant Davy, and 11 men wounded. The Boers were estimated to have been killed behind in charge of the wounded.

It is estimated now by experts that 15,000 Boers will have to be driven out of Cape Colony, and the rest of the Orange River can be commenced.

A cable message from Helms says that the whole of the Canadian contingent has been moved to that point.

London, Dec. 12.—The War Office publishes the following despatch from General Buller: "Despatch from General Buller, dated Dec. 11, says that the Boer force of 500 of the 2nd Irish Brigade sortied to capture a Boer battery on a hill. They reformed both the crest of the hill and the crest of the enemy and they destroyed the Howitzers with gunnery and bayonets.

"When returning, Metcalfe found his retirement barred by the Boers, but he forced his way through with great bravery. The Boer losses were considerable. The British losses were the following: Lieut. Ferguson and 11 men killed; Capt. Kelly, Second Lieutenant Davy, and 11 men wounded; 6 men captured, who were retained behind in charge of the wounded.

Marking, Nov. 30, in Lorenzo Marques, Dec. 11.—Sorties by the British against the Boer position at Stormberg, continued. The British have had few