



CURRENT COMMENT

Although last Sunday's pilgrimage to St. Anne was fairly successful, not so many pilgrims joined it as would have done so, had it been better advertised. Only 166 tickets are reported by the conductor of the special train.

This time we were pleased to see that the Canadian Northern Railway behaved very handsomely in the matter of car accommodation. No less than eleven cars left Winnipeg, and when they reached St. Boniface station, four of them were left there, and the seven remaining cars were comfortable and not by any means overcrowded.

But the experience of previous pilgrims in overcrowded and unsuitable cars no doubt deterred many from undertaking what might turn out to be a most uncomfortable journey. It is proverbially difficult to establish a good reputation on the ruins of a bad one.

Since the C.N.R. is now in a position to consult the comfort of its patrons, and since even this comparatively small number of pilgrims left the company a fair margin of profit, we beg to suggest that a station-house be built without delay at the point where the pilgrims leave the train at St. Anne. Just now there is nothing but an open air platform. Fortunately the weather last Sunday was temperate, bright and dry; but, had it been raining or very cold the long wait around that platform would have been extremely disagreeable and perhaps dangerous to health. All the travellers had to wait half an hour for the arrival of the return train. Surely there is no excuse for this unpunctuality. A full report of the pilgrimage and ordination will be found in another column.

Our American cousins in Illinois are less prejudiced against teaching Sisters than the school board of Winnipeg. The following news item is adduced in proof:—

Four Sisters of St. Benedict have been employed as teachers in the public school of Arlington, Ill.

They were persuaded to seek employment there by a Protestant lady, Mrs. Anna Norris Kendall, the wealthiest woman in Bureau county and an active leader in educational movements.

They attended the teachers' institute in August, passed the examination successfully, and asked for positions.

Superintendent Claude Brown was in doubt concerning his duty in the matter, and applied to the State Superintendent of Education, Mr. Bayliss, in Springfield, who says that he is without authority to prevent the Sisters from teaching.

About 95 per cent. of the patrons of the school are members of the Catholic Church, and previous to the employment of the nuns the teachers were all Catholics.

In the North American Review the Rev. Dr. Gladden says the reason why Protestants no longer think that the Pope is Antichrist is because Leo XIII. was such an exalted Christian character. Thereupon the Catholic Columbian remarks that Popes of a most exalted Christian character are not at all uncommon. "The difference, therefore, probably lies with Protestants themselves. The railroad, the telegraph, the cable, the daily press have brought Rome close to them in knowledge. They are less ignorant of things Catholic and consequently less prejudiced. They

no longer believe the Pope to be 'the man of sin.' When they get rid of all their other misconceptions, they'll not only respect the Pope, but also join the Catholic Church themselves." This is true as far as it goes, but it does not quite give Leo XIII. his due. The reason why the late Pope caught the ear of the non-Catholic world is to be sought in his remarkable talent for exposition. In his great series of encyclicals there is nothing particularly new, not even in the phraseology. His mind was not original and analytic like that of Pius IX. But it enabled him to put before the world a coherent statement of Catholic doctrine more complete and practical than any that had yet appeared. This great volume of pronouncements, all of which were familiar to Catholic theologians, came upon the non-Catholic world with the freshness and newness of forgotten, though eternal, truth. Hence the impression of wonder it produced upon the half-instructed outsider.

It was said, on the election of Cardinal Sarto, that he spoke no language but Italian. Now it appears he speaks German very well, French fairly well, and English tolerably. As the new Pope is becoming better known his preference for thorough-going Catholics is becoming more marked. Some of our Catholic contemporaries, both in England and the United States, must have made a wry face when they read what the Holy Father wrote to the editors of "La Croix" in reply to their expression of homage: "I have for some time known and loved 'La Croix.' I bless with all my heart its director and his editorial staff, his office servants and printers, its readers and their families in every part of France." Perhaps our minimizing brethren who blamed "La Croix" for all the misfortunes of France, as a Catholic World writer lately blamed Louis Veuillot for the present apathy of French Catholics, might try to get a similar Papal recommendation for their own "trimming" sheets.

The Pope invited his three sisters and a niece to dinner with him at the Vatican on September 18. They were dressed plainly in black and wore no hats, their heads being covered with veils. The sisters of His Holiness lived at his palace in Venice, but after his election to the pontificate they were brought to Rome, and they are now living in a convent. It is likely that they will soon be given an apartment in the Vatican. The Roman aristocracy hoped that the Pope would confer titles upon his relatives, but the Pope said: "They are my sisters, and that title is sufficient." It is said that the Pope insisted that his sisters should wear ordinary dresses at the dinner.

Learned reasons have been published why the present Pope will not name another American Cardinal. But all these prognostications fall before a recent saying, attributed to Cardinal Gibbons. Shortly after his arrival in Baltimore after his unique experience as the only American Cardinal that ever voted for a Pope, he is reported to have said: "There will be another American Cardinal. It will not surprise me to see him created in the near future."

The optimistic editor of the "Catholic News Agency," in his letter "No. 42," dated Sept. 21, 1903, has secured one valuable piece of information from his friends, the Washington authorities. "The government," he writes, "learned one important fact, which has caused it to change its policy in some branches of its administration of the Philip-

pine islands. This is, that the American school teacher is a magnificent failure, and that the sooner he gets away from the islands the better for all concerned. No more teachers will be imported, or, at present as few as possible, and the public school system will be given entirely into the hands of the Filipinos. The superintendent may be an American for a time, and perhaps a few of his assistants, but even these officials will eventually give way to natives."

For the enlightenment of some of our readers who thought us too severe in a remark we lately made about the Marquis of Lansdowne, we quote the following editorial note from "The Casket," our able and temperate Antigonish contemporary. "It is many years since there has been such an outcry against a minister of the crown as is now heard against the Marquis of Lansdowne, since the report of the Royal Commission has shown how grossly he mismanaged the South African war. The London 'Daily Chronicle' says:

"There is no excuse for Lord Lansdowne's failure in duty. It was the result of indolence and the sacrifice of the nation's safety to his own personal convenience, and it has been avowed by the culprit with a cynical disregard for the feelings of those who have suffered so cruelly. The indictment against Lord Lansdowne is proved up to the hilt by his own evidence. He refuses to resign. The nation must extort his resignation under circumstances that will inflict upon him indelible disgrace."

Lord Lansdowne carried into the War Office the same qualities which made him a bad Irish landlord,—utter indifference to the interests of others. As he was in the War Office, so he is in the Foreign Office, as is shown by his supercilious refusal to take any steps to secure compensation for the property of the English Benedictines at Douay, unjustly seized by the French Government. We disapproved of the speeches made by William O'Brien in Canada when Lansdowne was Governor-General, not because we had any respect for the Kerry landlord, but because we considered that Canadians had nothing to do with him except as the representative of the Queen, and should honor him in that capacity. We are not sorry, however, that the man who harried his wretched tenants so cruelly has now become the object of the execrations of Englishmen throughout the Empire. Yet, in spite of this hue and cry, the noble Marquis, with characteristic superciliousness, hangs on to his portfolio, when so many of his colleagues, better men than he is, have given up theirs.

His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface has received a beautifully engraved and illustrated invitation to be present at the celebration (Sept. 26 to Oct. 1) of the one hundredth anniversary of the settlement of the City of Chicago. While regretting that he cannot accept this gracious invitation, Mgr. Langevin sees therein a gratifying proof of Chicago's esteem for the Canadian clergy. French Canadians were among the earliest settlers of that great city whose epoch-making dates: 1803, Fort Dearborn; 1871, the great fire; 1893, the World's Fair; and 1903 the present metropolis of the west, are commemorated in appropriate vignettes on the first page of the invitation quarto. The Centennial Committee, containing the names of 39 leading Chicago citizens of all nationalities, has for its chairman, Charles A. Plamondon, evidently a French Canadian. The invitation proper is signed by the Mayor, Carter H. Harrison, who is a graduate of St. Ignace's College in that city.

When the street railway extend their car service to St. Boniface they will have to increase their power very notably, since even now, confined as it is to Winnipeg, it is lamentably weak. Visitors from the east complain that our electric cars do not travel fast enough. They are slow coaches compared to those of Toronto, Montreal, Quebec and Ottawa.

To the kindly hearted automobilist motoring in this city is less of a pleasure than a pain. Except in Main street horses have not yet got used to the horseless, trackless vehicle. Not only do they shy, rear and run away when an auto meets or passes them, but they actually tremble before one of those uncanny machines at rest. Thus it happens continually that the humane driver of an automobile has to stop his car to go and save men, women or children from the fright of their ungovernable horses.

The General Intention for October is Apostleship among Young Men. The necessity and importance of winning young men to faithful observance of the laws of God and Holy Church is well insisted on in the current number of the Canadian Messenger of the Sacred Heart. Catholic Young Men's Societies are, as they ought to be, warmly commended. "With a little effort boys leaving school, ordinarily at the age of fifteen, can be induced to keep up the practice of monthly communion with their former school companions, at least for a few years, till they are ripe for the Men's League and there is then good hope that they will be faithful to it for a lifetime, with what blessings to themselves, their homes and their parishes."

Persons and Facts

Several British noblemen have visited this city lately, but the only Catholic among these titled visitors is Lord Braye. On Saturday last he called at the Archbishop's palace, wishing to see His Grace; but Mgr. Langevin was at St. Anne and the Vicar General was also momentarily absent. However, Lord Braye introduced himself to the Rev. P. Courcoux and conversed with him in excellent French for half an hour. The 5th Baron Braye, A. T. T. Verney-Cave, who was born in 1849, is a tall, fine looking man. He said he had seen all the Archbishops and Bishops of Canada to enlist their sympathy with petitions for a change in the Accession Oath, and he regretted that he had missed the Archbishop of St. Boniface. He left for the east by the Imperial Limited.

Mr. Lewis Griffith McPhillips, a well known Catholic lawyer of Vancouver, formerly of Winnipeg, where his family are "old timers," was married, on the 22nd of Sept., at Vancouver, to Miss Emma Louise, daughter of Mrs. Samuel Blythe Rogers.

Mgr. O'Connell, the rector of the Catholic University at Washington, on September 17, paid a farewell visit to Cardinal Satolli, who is Prefect of the Congregation of Studies, on which the University depends. The rector received from the Cardinal instructions as to the best means of improving the institution and raising its influence, prestige and power, according to the Pope's desire expressed in the brief delivered to Mgr. O'Connell last week. Rector O'Connell has now left Rome for Washington.

One-half the native Hawaiians in the Sandwich islands are members of the Church. Altogether the Catholics have 104 churches and

chapels. Many of them are located at Oahu, though there is a chapel of some sort for Catholics in every settlement in the Territory. There are 25 priests and 12 schools with 2,191 school children.

The largest tree in Oregon was felled recently, to be sent as a curiosity to the World's Fair. It is the Aberdeen spruce and stood nearly 300 feet high, 40 feet around and 118 feet from the ground to the first limb. Its age is calculated at 440 years, having been a good-sized tree when Columbus discovered the land that was afterward called America.

There are now 102 boarders and 60 day pupils in St. Mary's Academy.

The Rev. J. J. Doherty, pastor of St. Mary's Church, the largest Catholic church in Norfolk, Va., created consternation at mass when he denounced male members of the parish for spitting on the floor of the church. "I have a pretty fair idea of these men's identity," he said, "but to be doubly sure I will employ a detective to attend service and report expectorators to me. I will cause the arrest of guilty parties."

Some time ago we were told of a Montreal barber who shaved 43 men in less than 30 minutes. Now comes a Vancouver barber, Joseph H. Mills, who boasts that he shaved a man in ten seconds at Attleboro, Mass.

The son of a late Archbishop of Canterbury, Rev. Robert Hugh Benson, M.A., whose conversion we mentioned lately, had been an active member of the Anglican "Order of the Resurrection." He was received into the Church at Woodchester by the Rev. H. Reginald Buckler, O.P.

An interesting personal detail with regard to Pius X. is related by Mr. Thaddeus, the Irish painter, to whom the Pope has lately given sittings for his portrait. "When I came to paint his eyes," says Mr. Thaddeus, "I could not help exclaiming, 'Why, Holy Father, your eyes are not Italian eyes at all—they are just the sort of eyes we have in Ireland.' 'Well,' he said, 'I am glad you like them. And they make us brothers, don't they?'"

Miss Alice Healy of this city and Miss Mary Conny of Pembina, N. Dakota, both former pupils of St. Mary's Academy, left on Thursday the 1st inst., to enter the novitiate of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary in Montreal.

The Apostolic Delegate to the United States, having asked the Propaganda whether the prayers after Low Mass ordered by Leo XIII. should be continued, Cardinal Gotti, Prefect of the Propaganda, under date of Sept. 7th, replies as follows: "As a universal law is binding not only during the life of the legislator, but as long as the law is not revoked, the reiteration of the said prayers must be continued."

Mr. and Mrs. A. McGillis, of Edmonton street, returned on Tuesday afternoon by the Great Northern Ry. from a three months' visit to Toronto, Ottawa, and other eastern points.

Mr. Thos. Bennett, of Regina, and his son, arrived in Alaska Sept. 5, after a most pleasant trip, and are delighted with the country and its prospects.