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REV. A. A. CHERRIER,
Editor-in-Chief.

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Northwest Review.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1899

CURRENT COMMENT

Elsewhere we publish a letter which Mr. Tardivel wrote to the editor of the Manitoba Free Press on the 29th of last month. At the same date he wrote to us, that, if the Free Press did not publish it, he would send us a copy of the rough draft which he kept. The prompt publication of his two former letters in the pages of our Winnipeg contemporary led us to expect that the same courtesy would be extended to this one, and accordingly we allowed ten days to elapse before informing the editor of La Vérité that his third letter had not been printed. The copy he now sends us is substantially, though not word for word, the same as that which has been suppressed by the Free Press. The contents of this letter, especially the exposure of the egregious blunder about Bishop Saint-Vallier, may afford some excuse, though hardly a valid one, for its suppression. It is not easy to confute Mr. Tardivel.

The article on "Consciousness Not Personality," from the clear philosophical mind of Father L. A. Lambert, author of "Notes on Ingersoll" and editor of the New York Freeman's Journal, is one we would fain recommend to non-Catholic professors of mental philosophy. Almost all their favorite writers on psychology argue as does Dr. Seton—from the physical to the metaphysical, from the abnormal to the normal, and so their arguments are inconclusive. Father Lambert's great strength arises from his eschewing all attempt to make new discoveries in a field that has been thoroughly explored for fourteen centuries past, and at the same time from his happy knack of bringing fresh illustrations to bear on world-old truths. His parallel instance of the man with the broken leg reveals the absurdity of the contention that because a diseased brain brings about dual consciousness that brain belongs to two distinct persons.

It will be remembered that Rev. Father Devine passed through here lately to the coast, accompanying one of his brethren whose health had made a long journey imperative. The

observations of the trip are embodied in an interview, printed in another column, which is remarkably interesting and comprehensive. Father Devine possesses the art of condensing the salient features of a continental journey into the smallest possible compass without any sacrifice of interest.

The "Courrier du Canada" quotes from the "Express du Midi" (France) a passage from the Bulletin Officiel du Suprême Conseil de France (the official bulletin of the Supreme Council of French Freemasons) a document setting forth that Alfred Dreyfus, the "Rennes martyr," was promoted to the 31st degree on the 26th of October, 1898. This explains the unanimity of Masonically inspired journals all over the world in his defence.

"The Midland Review," while expostulating with the editor of "Præco Latinus" against the latter's new classical (?) Latin version of the "Imitation of Christ," practises what Cardinal Newman gave as one of the characteristics of the typical gentleman: he is "merciful to the absurd." This gentleness of our distinguished Louisville contemporary is quite in keeping with the best traditions of chivalric Kentucky. But the great Cardinal mentions as another of the gentleman's characteristics that, though he never "hacks and hews," he can "cut clean," and we cannot help thinking that the best way to give this absurd project the "happy despatch," which it so richly deserves, is to point out, as we did in our issue of the 5th inst., that this new translation ruins all the music of the original. Church Latin has a melody of its own, exemplified in the prose of Thomas à Kempis and St. Bernard, and in the marvelous rhyming hymns of Adam of St. Victor. Catholic ecclesiastics, the best Latin scholars in the world, have enjoyed this medieval rhythm for fourteen hundred years. That they are not inclined to give it up at the bidding of one who apparently cannot appreciate it is evident from the fact, mentioned by the "Ave Maria," that, although the prospectus of the new translation was sent to 2,000 priests and convents, the total returns in subscriptions amount to only \$4.50. The Notre Dame editor finds "the fate of this enterprise none too complimentary to Catholic scholarship," an opinion the exact opposite of ours; but then he practically comes round to our view when he adds, "The best of intentions and the greatest painstaking cannot supply for lack of special knowledge."

In the last Annual report of the government inspector upon the public institutions of Manitoba we find the detailed report of receipts and expenses from both our local hospitals, from which we have made a rather curious calculation. Deducting cash in hand and in bank and cost of the Jubilee wing, the expenditures of the Winnipeg General Hospital for 1898 are \$48,721.82. Dividing this sum by the total number of patients during the year, i.e., 2,060, we find the average cost of treatment to be \$23.65. Deducting, in the same way for St. Boniface Hospital, cash in hand and in bank

and expenses for land, the total cost of running the latter institution during the same year was \$23,705.36, which, divided among 1620 patients, gives the average cost of treatment \$14.63, that is, 38 per cent less. And yet the number of deaths in St. Boniface Hospital was only 62 as against 111 in the General Hospital, though, taking the proportion of patients as about four to five, had the deaths in St. Boniface Hospital been in the same ratio as in the General, there would have been 86 in the former.

The General Intention for which the members of the Apostleship of Prayer are invited to pray during the month of October is "The Society of St. Vincent de Paul and its works." This is the parent and pattern of all modern charitable associations. A quarter of a century before "slumming" was thought of by our separated brethren it had been practised by the conferences of St. Vincent de Paul all over the world. We are asked to pray that these conferences increase and multiply and grow in the knowledge and observance of their rules.

This reminds us that we are rather late in reviewing the "Catholic World" for September, which contains a fine article on St. Vincent de Paul by the Rev. Walter Elliott, C. S. P. Perhaps the strongest paper in this number is the Rev. Henry A. Brann's "Robert Ingersoll," a sketch which proves that the noted infidel was extremely ignorant "and had a tenth-rate intellect." "Don Jaime's Honeymoon," by Henrietta Dana Skinner, is a graceful and just tribute to the virtues of the Cubans.

The September "Donahoe's" is full of interesting sketches and stories. "Catholic Literature in Public Libraries," by S. L. Emery, is eminently practical and sometimes gives startling information. "Respectfully Submitted" is a clever skit on contemporary lapses of journalistic courtesy, showing how Catholic papers help themselves to magazine articles, illustrations and all, without a word of acknowledgment. This article has been widely commented upon by our Catholic contemporaries and will, we trust, do some good.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

A great man passed quietly through the city last week in the person of Mr. Jesse Collings, who occupies an important position in the present British Government. Mr. Collings is a splendid specimen of that class of Englishman which has been the backbone of the race and made the British Isles not only the workshop of the world but also the best governed spot on the earth. When we say best governed we refer to the internal administration of the country and no matter what one may feel regarding Great Britain's attitude towards, and relations with, other nationalities, there can be nothing but admiration for the manner and method of its county and municipal government. That it has achieved such marked success in this vitally important matter is mainly due to such men as Mr. Collings

who without any advantages of birth have by their own pluck and ability raised themselves from obscurity to positions of eminence in the service of their country, and have from truly patriotic motives assisted in perfecting that part of the machinery of government which most nearly affects the interests and well-being of the people themselves. Mr. Collings is one of the many thousands of others of his nationality who have spent their lives for the good of their beloved country and for the uplifting of their fellow countrymen—and the work he has been able to accomplish stamps him as one of the really great men of the age. His history, too, shows the really democratic nature of the government of the old country under which lowly birth and comparative poverty form no bar to the attainment of the highest positions in the confidence of Queen and people, and no matter what the origin of a man may be, the most exalted offices in the country are open to him if he shows that he possesses the necessary qualities of mind and of heart.

According to The Daily Telegram the city postmen are complaining about the way in which they are being treated by the Post Office department, and if one half of what has been told is true they certainly have just cause for complaint. Taxpayers undoubtedly want the various departments in the administration of the country run as economically as possible, but we are sure that very few citizens would wish to see a saving made in the annual cost of government at the expense of such a hardworked and deserving body of men as our city mail carriers. At the best of times it has always seemed to us that the postmen have been underpaid and that they well deserved any of the small privileges they have hitherto enjoyed such as an annual holiday without a stoppage of pay, and we are confident that the people generally would have nothing but contempt for a postmaster general who, for the sake of the few dollars he could thereby save, would deprive the men of these trifling advantages. We have not had any opportunity of confirming the report as it appeared in our daily contemporary, but we are prepared to say that if the statements are true something should be done to show the powers that be that their action is far from meeting with the approval of the taxpayers. If the postmen are being treated as alleged it will be another argument in favor of the trades and labor unions, for it will show that no class of men, no matter how deserving they may be, can expect considerate treatment at the hands of their employers unless they are banded together for mutual protection and support. For our part we hope the day will come when all workingmen—and by that term we mean all men who work for wage in subordinate capacities—will be united in a solid and compact body for the maintenance of their rights. Some people might say that such an organization would be a danger to society and would lead to extravagant demands that would paralyze trade and commerce; but we have no such fears, for

we believe the workingmen of today and of the future are more to be trusted than are the money-grabbing powers who rule things with such a high hand at present.

FATHER DEVINE'S IMPRESSIONS OF THE WEST.

True Witness.

Father Devine, S. J., Director of the Montreal Free Library, returned last week from a trip to the Pacific Coast, where he had spent ten days. This has been the Rev. Father's third trip across the continent within four years, and he consented to tell a representative of the True Witness what he thinks of the improvements that are going on in Western Canada. He noted a marked progress in the towns of Sudbury and Fort William, where he stayed over a day in each place. Sudbury is growing. The Copper Cliff Company has seven or eight hundred men working in its nickel mines and supplying nearly the whole world with that useful metal. The twin cities of Port Arthur and Fort William are also growing rapidly. In the latter town nearly a hundred houses were raised last season and many more are under construction. Fort William with its immense elevator has become a large grain transportation centre. The flour mill and elevator that Mr. Ogilvie is going to build there will also give importance to the town. Both Port Arthur and Fort William are anxiously looking for the completion of the Rainy River Railway, nearly one hundred miles of which are now in construction. These two places are only five miles apart and being at the extreme head of lake navigation, they are destined to become large cities in the near future.

The C. P. R. has evidently faith in the future of this section of the country, for the company is building doublewidth bridges all the way between Thunder Bay and Winnipeg. The lake traffic west of Fort William has become enormous and the company will soon have to double-track that distance.

Winnipeg is trying the experiment of asphaltting its streets; it will be a boon for the citizens if the experiment succeeds. Just before Father Devine reached Manitoba, the C. P. R. had brought ten thousand farmer's hands from the east to work at wheat cutting. These men were already at work cutting down the immense crops on both sides of the line. The harvest in the neighborhood of Portage la Prairie and Brandon looked splendid, and every farmer had a bland smile on his face. The provincial bulletins predicted a crop of fifty million bushels of wheat, which will yield about \$30,000,000 to the farmers.

West of Regina and Moosejaw, the plains are tedious and one spends his time looking for buffalo trails and gophers. However, the Imperial Limited does not stop at small stations so frequently as formerly, and it is a pleasure for travellers to feel that they are leaving hundreds of miles of treeless prairie behind them and approaching the Rocky Mountains.

Around Calgary and on the foothills, hundreds of cattle are seen from the train grazing, and here and there tufts of short trees and Indian wigwams may be discerned.

The Rockies and the Selkirk Ranges are always welcome sights. "And though I am getting a little familiar with them," said Father Devine, "the magnificent views in the Kicking Horse Pass, down the Illicilli-