



HIS GRACE AT ST. LAURENT

Letter from Br. Mulvihill.

ST. LAURENT, MAN.
5th. Dec. 1898.

To the Editor of the NORTHWEST REVIEW.

Dear Sir,

I beg to furnish you with a few hurried notes on this parish which I trust you will correct and develop. I have not a moment this morning, so I must scribble in haste, but I may write you later on giving you further details.

We entered our new stone house on the 23rd. ultimo. The building is heated by hot air. The walls of the new convent are now built and roofed in, but it is closed up for the winter for want of means to complete it until some future period. No work whatever has yet been done in the interior of it. The convent is 53x33 feet, three storeys high with basement; kitchen one and a half storeys

The next day, the 24th, His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface arrived here, and was received by the clergy and people with much joy and congratulation. Many of the parishioners went several miles to meet His Grace. When approaching and passing through the village, many salutes were fired off from muskets to greet him.

On alighting from the sleigh, he immediately proceeded to the Church where benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given, after which he thanked the people for their kind reception. Immediately on entering the new presbytery, His Grace expressed his high appreciation and satisfaction at the appearance of the new buildings, House and Convent, which he saw for the first time. These buildings had not been even commenced at the time of His Grace's last visit here; hence he was completely taken by surprise. This was his first pastoral visit to this parish. On Friday evening the 25th, he commenced his annual retreat as he had been absent in Europe or Lower Canada during the annual retreat which took place this year at St. Mary's, Winnipeg.

His Grace did not appear in the Church on Sunday the 26th. He celebrated Mass in the house chapel.

Several days previous to His Grace's arrival, the Pastor, Rev. Father Camper, O. M. I., had been preparing a considerable number of children for confirmation, whilst Rev. Father Joseph Chaumont, O. M. I., was also very active visiting the different missionary posts confided to the care of this Mission, Minnewakan, Oak Point, and "Ile de Pierre," the former twenty-five miles from here and the latter fifteen. During his sojourn in each locality he prepared several children for confirmation. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather at this

season of the year, as well as the distance from here, these children did not fail to attend and receive this great sacrament as well as to avail themselves of the occasion (together with their parents) to see their beloved Archbishop.

On Sunday the 4th. inst., at ten o'clock, the parishioners assembled in procession outside the presbytery to meet His Grace, dressed in the usual robes and accompanied by the Rev. Fathers, also Brothers Mulvihill, De Byle, Gauthier and Rioux, O. M. I. The procession then proceeded, headed by the Archiepiscopal Cross to the Church, whilst four men bore the dais. His Grace then took his seat at the throne, temporarily erected for the occasion, assisted by Rev. Father Camper, while Rev. Father Chaumont went to the vestry and returned dressed in full vestments, to celebrate High Mass, and took his stand at the foot of the Altar. Then His Grace moved to the centre of the Altar and began the Mass until he said that beautiful prayer "Dominus Vobiscum," when Rev. F. Chaumont went up to the Altar and continued the Mass while His Grace resumed his seat.

After Rev. F. Camper had read the Gospel for the day, first in French, then in English, His Grace rose, spoke at length in French, then in English for a time, but said he would speak in the afternoon in English, which he did.

First in addressing the people, he said: "You may well feel proud of this beautiful church, though not yet finished, as well as of your magnificent presbytery and fine convent now erected in this parish. Outside of St. Boniface there are not similar buildings in any parish in Manitoba. Whom have you to thank for all this? First of all, Almighty God who alone can inspire all mankind to do what is good. Secondly, your dear pastor, Rev. Father Camper; he is the man who has your best interests at heart, late and early he prays for your spiritual and temporal welfare.

You are fully aware that a Brother travelled from house to house in a part of the States to collect funds towards the building of your Church and Convent, other Brothers (meaning De Byle and Gauthier) have worked hard and faithfully towards the erection of these buildings, without the latter's assistance the work could not have been carried on. They also deserve your sincere thanks for all they have done.

You must not forget those kind and charitable friends who have so nobly and charitably contributed towards those buildings, which probably they will never see. I now refer to strangers, who have contributed through a spirit of faith and charity, and for which I trust they have already received their reward.

You also, my dear friends, have done your part, for which I sincerely thank you. I know you are far from being rich, but nevertheless you have done what you could. You are a privileged people to have such magnificent buildings in your parish, you may also rejoice at the great facility you have of practising your holy religion, you may rejoice too for your children who have such good and faithful teachers, "The Franciscan Sisters Missionaries of Mary." They are angels of charity for this parish. They not only teach your children, but also pray for you in presence of the Blessed Sacrament which is exposed four hours every day, then, benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is given every evening. I say again you are a privileged people, and I sincerely trust you will avail yourself of such extraordinary favors. Above all I request of you to practise monthly communion, and to be very faithful to send your children most regularly to school."

His Grace then drew their attention to the great respect they should always have for the priesthood, and their duty of maintaining their priests, a strict duty which Almighty God imposes on them; they would not be blessed if they failed in this duty. He then spoke of the economy and industry which they should always endeavour to practise, remaining and working at home instead of being slaves to strangers, among whom they would not always learn the best of morals. You can, said he, compete with any parish in this Archdiocese, you have all you need to remain at home, provided you be industrious.

His Grace gave Confirmation after Mass to one hundred and seven children.

At three o'clock, His Grace spoke at length in English, after which for a short time in French, explaining the ceremony of the blessing of the bell which was about to take place. The Church was crowded at each service. He then commenced to bless the new bell which weighs with the mountings 1640lbs. After the bell had been blessed, every one in the church rung it, and many contributed their mite according to their means, then benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given.

The most of the money for the purchase of this bell was collected in this parish by Rev. Fr. Chaumont who took much interest and trouble in the matter. Protestants as well as Catholics generously contributed.

His Grace left this afternoon for St. Boniface, accompanied on the way by several of the parishioners.

J. M. J. MULVIHILL, O. M. I.

The date at the head of our last issue appeared as "November" instead of December 6th. Those who keep the paper on file will do well to correct this error.

CATHOLIC HEROISM

Ave Maria.

Addressing the Park Street Club in Boston last week, Major Henry B. Fairbanks, of the Second Massachusetts Regiment, said: "If I ever saw in my life a true man, it was the Catholic priest with our brigade, who went upon the field while the bullets were whizzing around our heads. He was gentle as a woman. He was a genuine hero."

At a banquet given to the soldiers of the 75th N. Y. Volunteers, Major Keck thus describes an incident of the battle of San Juan:

On July 2, while the fighting was going on, I sent word to our chaplain to come to the front to officiate at the burial of comrades who had been killed in action. For some unexplained reason, he failed to respond. A Catholic priest, the chaplain of one of the regiments of regulars in Lawton's division, volunteered his services, which were promptly and gratefully accepted. As he was reading the service over the body a Spanish bullet struck his left hand, in which the book was held, shattering it horribly. Without a change of voice the book was dropped into the right hand, and the services continued without a moment's halt. The mutilated and bleeding hand dropped to his side. Having finished the burial services, he asked if he could be of any further service. My answer was a detail to get him to the field hospital as quickly as possible, and my sincere, heartfelt thanks.

It is pleasant to observe that the priests who served in the war were as modest as they were brave. The correspondents, the military men, and the non-Catholic chaplains have felt it a duty to let their golden deeds shine before men. No Catholic priest has yet written on "What I did in the War." They are not the less admired for their reticence.

The plague in Vienna, like our late war, has redounded to the honor of religion. The Sisters have now taken care of the bubonic patients with a quiet heroism which has drawn a glowing tribute from Dr. Moriz Haupt in the *Budapester Tagblatt*, quoted by the *London Tablet*. "I have not always," says Haupt, "had the same opinion of these 'brides of heaven' as I have now. I was not altogether free from the modern idea that they were beings who had 'missed their vocation.' To-day I must confess that their appearance inspires me with reverence." He cites some remark-

ble instances of the devotion of the nuns, and adds:

There are indeed exalted examples of devotion to duty outside the ranks of the pious. The noble ladies who devote themselves to nursing the wounded; the captain of a German vessel who, together with his men, does all he can during a tempest to save the passengers; and then, with a cheer for his emperor, sinks in the waves, with his gallant crew; the doctors who, reckless of their own lives, devote themselves during an epidemic to the treatment of the infected, like these doctors at present in the Vienna plague-house,—all these are brilliant examples of lofty philanthropy. But none of these isolated examples reach the level of the devotion and spirit of self-sacrifice which form the rule with the Sisters who have made the care of the sick their work. Silent, unwearying, modest, they live and die at the work, almost unnoticed; and yet they have accomplished the highest which man can accomplish—a triumph of immortal love in this earthly vale of woes and tears; a victory of the divine in man; a proof of the nobility of human nature when purified by faith and charity.

RUTHVEN'S CAREER.

Liverpool Catholic Times.

A leaflet has been published by the Catholic Truth Society, 69, Southwark Bridge-road, London, S. E., giving from "The Catholic Universe," of Cleveland, Ohio, and "The Christian Union Herald," a United Presbyterian publication, the history of the person who calls himself the Rev. Victor M. Ruthven, alias Riordan. In this leaflet it is stated that he was born in Ireland, was partly educated for the priesthood when he was expelled from the school for drunkenness and disreputable practices, that he joined the Presbyterians in Australia and married a lady who was obliged to separate from him owing to drunkenness and extreme cruelty, that he was deposed from the Presbyterian ministry, that he joined the Baptists in America and was expelled by them as a fraud, that he became an inmate of the Keely Liquor Cure Institute at Dwight, Illinois, and that at Buffalo he was convicted of sinning by a jury all of whom save one were Protestants and was sentenced to a year's imprisonment. We may say that we are on the track of some special information as to his early career.

ONE MORE USE FOR A HAIRPIN

Daily Eastern Argus.

The statement that the power was shy on the Yarmouth electric road during the electrical storm Wednesday afternoon was incorrect. Instead a bolt of lightning had blown out the fuse to the electric lights of the car which arrived in the city 7.30 P.M., an hour late. There were no spare fuses on board, so Superintendent Decker, always on hand and with a prompt remedy for trouble, borrowed a common hairpin from one of the lady passengers. The lady was somewhat surprised at the request, but after granting it was much pleased to see Mr. Decker straighten out the pin and replace the burned fuse with it. Then the juice was admitted to the car and all went well.