



CURRENT COMMENT

"Why are people urged to subscribe to the Catholic weekly?" says Father Van der Heyden, in an excellent article we reproduce elsewhere on Catholic social reform in Belgium. "It need not be to secure the local church news; for that is, as a rule, secured quicker in the secular daily than in the ex-professo Catholic weekly." (Even this much is hardly true of our Winnipeg dailies, whose Catholic church news is often ludicrously incorrect and is frequently borrowed, when it is correct, from our columns.—Ed. N. R.) "It is the foreign and distant news of things Catholic, the comments and appreciations on Church matters with which the American" (and Canadian—Ed. N. R.) "dailies regularly regale their unsophisticated readers, that must be set right by the Catholic weekly. It is in correcting the false impression the newspaper devotees often glean from the dailies, that it has one of its chief 'raison d'être.'" This our readers know, we have always done fearlessly. In fact, some of them think we are too much inclined to find fault. But at least we do not criticize on the wrong side, as the "Visitor" and the "Northwestern Chronicle" are proved to have done by Father Van der Heyden. Mr. Arthur Preuss has added one more to his many claims on the gratitude of all sincere Catholics by securing so factful an article for the pages of his admirable "Review."

What did not enter into the purview of the writer of that article, although he would be the first to admit it if reminded thereof, is the fact, patent to all thoughtful Belgians, that the social success of their government is due to the influence of the Catholic University of Louvain. This celebrated university, founded in 1266, suppressed by the French Revolution, and re-established in 1817, resumed its thoroughly Catholic life in 1835 when the Catholic university of Mechlin was incorporated with it. Great as was the glory of Louvain in the sixteenth century, when its professors of theology checked the devastating onslaught of Protestantism, its practical benefits to the Belgian people are perhaps still greater now. It sends forth every year graduates in theology, philosophy, mathematics and the natural sciences, who are, above all else, staunch Catholics. They are the judges, members of parliament, doctors, engineers, lawmakers of the kingdom. Thus Catholic intellect, illumined by the splendors of Catholic faith, sways, as it ought, a truly Catholic country. In this, Belgium is a model for the rest of the Catholic world. Of course Catholics everywhere must have Catholic schools and colleges, but they ought also to aim at having Catholic universities with something like the great prestige of Louvain. Doubtless we must rely chiefly upon personal holiness, but it is well to remember how Cardinal Newman reconciles the rival claims of sanctity and intellect. "Here then, I conceive," he says in his sermon at St. Monica and her son St. Augustine, "is the object of the Holy See in setting up universities; it is to reunite things which were joined together by God and have been put asunder by man. It will not satisfy me if religion is here and science there, and young men converse with science all day and lodge with religion in the evening. Sanctity has its influence; intellect has its influence; the influence of sanctity is the greater on the long run; the influence of intellect is the greater at the moment. Therefore, in the case of the young, whose education lasts a few years, where

the intellect is, THERE is the influence. Their literary, their scientific teachers really have the forming of them. Let both influences act freely, and then, as a general rule, no system of mere religious guardianship which neglects the Reason, will in matter of fact succeed against the School. Youths need a masculine religion, if it is to carry captive their restless imaginations and their wild intellects, as well as to touch their susceptible hearts."

In the New York "Sun" Seumas MacManus relates this characteristic anecdote, appropriate at this moment when the echoes of the "Glorious Twelfth" are still reverberating around us.

In the gay city of Belfast, where lovers of civil and religious liberty are so prone to try upon Papists the persuasion of well aimed paving stones to awake them to the error of their ways, Lord Dudley, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, has been making a speech and giving some hints, each as broad as a barndoor to the gentlemen who put so much trust in the pathos of the paving stones.

He told them with considerable bluntness that if Ireland would progress, narrow intolerance must be shut off.

"Every one of my audience," he said, "knows well to what I refer."

His audience, far from taking it in as he must have anticipated, cheered him thunderously, and a burly hero of a hundred fights from Sandy Row arose to his feet and shouted:

"Bully for you, sir; pitch into the Papishers."

To the amiable gentlemen in this and other parts of Canada who still harbor the delusion that they are right in perpetuating that absurd anachronism, we earnestly commend Mr. Seumas MacManus's further remarks:

Orangeism is now on its last legs. It has been for a hundred years, fostered by the landlord and the ascendancy party in Ireland as the best means of keeping Irishmen of different religions asunder and holding themselves in power.

Of late years the eyes of every intelligent Orangeman have been opening and they have found that they have been made fools of to serve the personal interests of people who in their hearts despised them. Year by year the ascendancy party were being shorn of their power, and as they lost their power, they lost, too, all interest in Orangeism, which now totters and will soon disappear.

His Holiness the Pope is the big bogie of all Orangemen; and their most fervent prayer, which they love to pray in public places and from the housetops, is that the Pope may have a front seat and a short poker in the next world—only they put it in blunter terms.

Portadown, with Belfast, is one of the greatest and last strongholds of Orangeism. A Portadown man arrested in London a short time ago for cursing the Pope and brought before the magistrate, was being remonstrated with.

"I do not know," the magistrate said, "why you curse the Pope. Though I myself am not of his following, I think the Pope is not such a bad man that he deserves to be cursed. Do you in your heart, think that he is so bad?"

"Your honor," the Portadown man replied in all earnestness, "you may be right, it might happen, indeed, that he is not the rascal they make out; but let me tell you," he added, "talking the magistrate into his con-

fidence, "let me tell you that he hasn't a good name about Portadown."

The Liverpool "Catholic Times," of July 1, has this to say of a now famous Catholic knight.

Dr. Edward Elgar on June 21, received the degree of Doctor of Music from the University of Durham. In the list of Birthday Honors published last Friday the name of Dr. Elgar appears among those on whom His Majesty has conferred a knighthood. Sir Edward's new honor has met with unanimous approval, and is recognized as one of the very few bestowed for personal merit as distinguished from political service. The London "Morning Leader" describes him as "our greatest modern musician," and like sympathetic references have appeared in other leading journals. The author of "King Olaf," the "Dream of Gerontius," "The Apostles," etc., lives at Malvern, and the present incident has recalled an episode of his school-days savoring somewhat of prophecy. It is said that the following dialogue took place with a former tutor: Master, "what is your name?" Boy: "Edward Elgar." Master: "Add the 'Sir.'" Boy: "Sir Edward Elgar." The new knight has received the warm congratulations of many of his co-religionists.

Mr. Clement Scott, whom the London "Daily Telegraph" calls "the most notable figure of his time in the domain of dramatic criticism," died on June 25, after receiving the last rites of the Church from the Rev. Kenelm Digby Best, of the Oratory. Mr. Scott had been for many years a fervent Catholic. During his last illness he tried in every way to prepare for the supreme moment of death and often spoke of the eternity to which he was hastening. In view of these facts, "it is somewhat remarkable," says the Catholic Times, "that though all the obituary notices of Mr. Clement Scott mentioned that his father was a Protestant minister, scarcely any state that the deceased journalist was a convert to the Catholic Church. Like the late Mr. Blowitz and the late Mr. George Augustus Sala (both Catholics), Mr. Clement Scott was supreme in his own journalistic department—theatrical criticism—that is whilst in the heyday of his strength. In 1872 began his association with the London "Daily Telegraph," which won for him celebrity as an able and discerning critic of the drama. He might, says the "Newcastle Daily Chronicle," have been called the English Sarcey, for at one period his word was almost law on the subject of plays and players. Mr. Scott had been for some time in declining health, but still managed to produce contributions for the weekly paper "Free Lance," founded by him. He was a clever adapter of French pieces, a vigorous writer of lyrics and stirring poems, and a picturesque essayist."

Mr. Hartshorne, Manager of the American-Abell Engine and Thresher Co., which has warehouses and yards on Dufferin avenue near the Exhibition grounds, has written to the Winnipeg Electric Street Railway Co., as follows:

"We would ask you either to improve the roadbed on Dufferin avenue, put on proper cars and give us a proper service, or we will petition the City Council to have the line removed as a public nuisance. At present a Red river cart would be preferable to your Dufferin avenue cars. We have put up patiently with a good deal of inconvenience, and a great deal of rough riding, making all allowances for a pioneer street

railway service, but we have reached the limit."

The W.E.S.R. having turned a deaf ear to Mr. Hartshorne's request, he appealed to the Board of Works, with the result that the city engineer was instructed to furnish the board with a report on the condition of the service complained of.

It were well if some enterprising citizens of St. Boniface were to adopt a similar line of action with respect to the solitary, dirty, worn out car, and the miserable service they are treated to by that same W.E.S.R. The car has become so delapidated that it breaks down every now and then, and even when running cannot do so on time, with any degree of regularity, a very serious inconvenience to those who come from Winnipeg and find themselves stranded at the Norwood Bridge, perhaps a mile and a half from their destination. It is true that the work of laying rails on the bridge began more than a fortnight ago, but, as there are only seven men employed, it proceeds at a snail's pace. Moreover, that part of the track which spans the hollow north of the hospital, will have to be raised to the level of the roadbed on both sides, which has been recently raised above the flood level; else the rails will be continually clogged with falling clods of loose earth, and the road will remain very dangerous to vehicles of all kinds.

Dr. James J. Walsh's two articles, in the June and July "Catholic World," on "Modern Electricity and Orthodoxy," ought to be republished separately by some Catholic Truth Society. They contribute a splendid vindication of the harmony, not the conflict, between science and religion. After showing what profoundly religious men were Ampere and Clerk Maxwell, and how Lord Kelvin, the greatest of living physicists, holds that modern science, far from being atheistic or materialistic in its tendencies, actually affords evidence of a Creative and Directive power, Dr. Walsh quotes Professor Guthrie Tait saying in an address delivered as one of the vice-presidents, before the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the most representative body of scientific men in the world: "On the other hand, there is a numerous group, not in the slightest degree entitled to rank as Physicists (though in general they assume the proud title of Philosophers), who assert that not merely life, but even evolution and consciousness are mere physical manifestations. These opposite errors, into neither of which it is possible for a genuine scientific man to fall, so long at least as he retains his reason, are easily seen to be very closely allied. They are both to be attributed to that credulity which is characteristic alike of ignorance and incapacity. Unfortunately there is no cure; the case is hopeless, for great ignorance almost necessarily presumes incapacity, whether it show itself in the comparatively harmless folly of the Spiritualist or in the pernicious nonsense of the Materialist."

Persons and Facts

Dr. Fortunat Lachance arrived here Thursday morning on a visit to his relatives and friends. He will spend the ensuing year as house surgeon in Notre Dame Hospital, Montreal.

Mr. Arthur Bleau, of the Archbishop's palace, returned from Montreal on Thursday. His many friends sympathize with him over the recent death of his mother.

Sir Henri Taschereau has been appointed to be a Privy Councillor—an interesting event in any case, but doubly so where the name thus honored is that of a family which has contributed one of its members to the Privy Councils of the Church. Sir Henri, who is now on a visit to England, and is accompanied by Lady Taschereau, took the oaths in person before the King.—The Tablet, July 2.

Mr. Francis McNutt has been appointed one of the six Camerieri di Cappella Spada di numero in the Pontifical Court. He is the third non-Italian and the first American to be appointed to this the highest dignity to which a layman can aspire. It is a life appointment, and requires constant residence in Rome.

The "Revue Biblique," which has become the officious, but not official organ of the Biblical Commission, has been transferred to Rome, and is now installed in the Dominican House in Via San Sebastiano.

Mr. Daniel S. O'Connor is preparing a new critical edition of Blessed Sir Thomas More's English works. The first volume will contain his "Early Poems," "The Life of Pico della Mirandola," "The History of Richard III.," the "De Quatuor Novissimis," and "The Dialogue Against Heresies." The second and third volumes will be mainly occupied by the controversy with Tyndale. Another volume will give the "Dialogue of Comfort against Tribulation." Literary experts need hardly be reminded that More's "Utopia," the most celebrated of his works, was written in Latin, a fact which Mr. Halleck, in his History of English Literature does not seem to know.

Miss Susan Strong, the American prima donna and one of the most brilliant of contemporary concert singers, has become a Catholic.

Admiral Lord Walter Kerr, a younger son of the seventh Marquis of Lothian, has been promoted to an Admiral of the Fleet in recognition of the great value to the navy and the nation of his fifty years of naval service. He entered the navy at the age of thirteen and is now in his 65th year. He became a Catholic at the age of fifteen. His mother, her two daughters and three other sons, had preceded him into the true fold: Two of his brothers, one of whom died some years ago, entered the Society of Jesus and one of his sisters was Madam Kerr, whose saintly life as a religious of the Sacred Heart is the subject of a well known biography. Thirty-one years ago Lord Walter married Lady Amabel, youngest daughter of the Sixth Earl Cowper, herself a convert to the Church.

"In all ranks of the navy," says a London morning paper, "Roman Catholics abound. One of their number, Admiral Lord Walter Kerr has been First Sea Lord of the Admiralty these five years; another, Vice-Admiral Sir Hilary Andoe, has been Admiral Superintendent of Chatham Dockyard; a third Rear Admiral Bickford, is, by the way, that 'nice Captain Bickford' whom R. I. Stevenson mentions in the Vailima Letters."

Last Saturday's Free Press contained a very interesting historical sketch of the Red River veterans who took part in the then Colonel Wolseley's expedition of 1870. All surviving members of that famous corps are invited to attend a reunion of the Red River Expedition Association next Thursday, July 28. Probably no force