

The Northwest Review

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY
WEDNESDAY
WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
AUTHORITY.

At 184 James Avenue East.
WINNIPEG.

Subscription, \$2.00 a year.
Six months, \$1.00.

P. KLINKHAMMER,
Publisher,

THE REVIEW is on sale at the
following place: Hart & McPherson's,
Booksellers, 364 Main street.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Made known on application.
Orders to discontinue advertisements must
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Advertisements unaccompanied by Specific
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Address all Communications to THE
NORTH WEST REVIEW, Post office Box
508, Winnipeg, Man.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Scott's Grave. Much ado was made last
Thursday and Friday
about the finding of some

human bones near the south corner of
Portage Avenue and Main Street.
Several old timers looked wise and
averred that these might well be the
remains of Thomas Scott, who was put
to death on the 4th of March, 1870.
One gentleman's theory was that
Scott's body was stolen and buried
under the Red Saloon, which used to
stand just about where the bones were
found. This gentleman, therefore, was
"disposed to say without hesitation
that the said remains were, without
doubt, those of Thomas Scott." But
when the most important part of the
skeleton, viz., the head, was discovered,
he admitted that it could not be Scott's,
though another man thought it was,
owing to the prominence of the front
teeth. The bones that have been un-
earthed are most probably (in spite of
some learned remarks about receding
foreheads, as if many whites had
not that peculiarity) the remains
of some Indian buried long before 1870.
The fact that no trace of clothing ap-
peared makes this view highly prob-
able. Twenty-six years in our soil
could not reduce the clothing to dust.
At any rate Thomas Scott's remains
have never been interred there. One
who has every reason to know states
positively that Scott was buried out-
side the limits of both Winnipeg and
St. Boniface

The True Culprits. In the report of this
"ghastly find" we
notice with pleasure

how the Free Press, which is nothing
if not a reflex of public opinion, lifts
the blame of those unfortunate events
in 1870 off the shoulders of the French
halfbreeds. However, it shifts the bur-
den upon those who are not the chief
offenders. "Bob O'Lone," says our
contemporary, "is credited with hav-
ing been a Fenian and an annexation-
ist, and one of those who were really
to blame for the disturbances rather
than the French halfbreeds." "Those
who were really to blame for the dis-
turbances" were the insolent, over-
bearing roadmakers, surveyors and
leaders of what was then called "The
Canadian Party." Rev. Dr. Bryce,
though not particularly partial to the
French halfbreeds, says in his "Two
Provisional Governments in Manito-
ba": "Suffice it to say that the hasty
action of the Canadian Government in
sending roadmakers and surveyors to
the North-west, before the transfer had
been made, the unwise conduct of a
number of these forerunners, and the
natural fear of the Red River people
that their interests would be neglected,
account for the rising." The
land hunger with which some of the
Canadian party staked out farms for
themselves was one of the most potent
factors in the disturbances. "It is
notorious," says Mr. Begg ("History

of the Red River troubles," p. 24),
"that the principal one in this move-
ment, the leader of the so-called Can-
adian party, staked off sufficient land
(had he gained possession of it) to make
him one of the largest landed prop-
rietors in the Dominion." Naturally,
the halfbreeds objected to this whole-
sale robbery. Mr. George Stewart,
Jr., in "Administration of the Earl of
Dufferin," writes: "Rumors of all
kinds prevailed. It was said that the
plots of ground, where some of the
halfbreeds had dwelt and reared
families for fifty years, would be torn
from their possession by the Govern-
ment of Canada, and themselves cast
adrift; their rights to the soil would be
invaded, their houses taken from them,
enormous taxes would be levied, and
the most absolute tyranny forced upon
them. They would be bought and sold
like slaves. With these views firmly
established in the very hearts of the
populace we cannot wonder at the
popularity of the movement which was
created to resist to the death what
some called Canadian coercion. Our
only astonishment is, all things
considered, that there was not
more blood spilted.... The mad
freaks of Colonel Dennis and Captain
Cameron did not a little to increase the
hostility of the forces of Riel, and Mr.
Macdougall's presence on the border
was a constant menace to the rebels,
who, with wonderful forbearance,
committed scarcely any violence to
him or his immediate staff." Finally,
Lieutenant-Governor Archibald testi-
fied before the Commons committee:
"In fact the whole of the French half-
breeds, and a majority of the Eng-
lish, regarded the leaders in those dis-
turbances as patriots and heroes; and
any government which should
attempt to treat them as criminals
would be obliged to disre-
gard the principles of responsi-
ble government."

Dumb Dogs. Though Archbishop Ire-
land's commendation of
Catholic schools is really a

very striking pronouncement, as will
be seen from a glance at it elsewhere in
this issue, though it is in every sense
an epoch-making document, the gen-
eral press despatches have, with their
usual one-sidedness, failed to notice it.
Keenly alive as our opponents ever
were some years ago to seize upon and
distort certain other sayings and do-
ings of the great Archbishop of St.
Paul, they will be sure to ignore this
one, because it goes counter to their
pet views on public schools. It is the
old story of the conspiracy of silence
against the Catholic Church.

Clerical Claptrap. Akin to this is the
other conspiracy of
shibboleths, an in-
stance of which occurred last Thursday

when the corner stone of the public
school at Selkirk was laid by the grand
master and officers of the grand lodge
of Manitoba with Masonic ceremonies.
On that occasion an Anglican clergy-
man said "it was most appropriate
that the Masonic body should be asked
to lay the corner stone of a building
intended for the purposes of education.
He said that Masonry itself was of
great educative value. He also held
that the object of true education and of
Free Masonry were the same, viz., the
upbuilding in our people of character,
which is the one enduring element in
all life and history." Doubtless there
is a grain of truth in this otherwise
missfire paradox; it is quite true that
the upbuilding of character is the
object of all education worthy of name,
and the promoters of our public school
system are sorely in need of such a
wholesome reminder, seeing that the
system generally ignores the religious
foundation of all character-building;
but what in the world is the educative
value, what the influence on character
of a secret society? We take it that
character here means moral excellence,
and moral excellence implies the free-
dom of the children of God and the
sincerity of absolute frankness, two

qualities which it is the essential
purpose of Masonry to destroy. It is a
system of lying shibboleths in which its
victims bind themselves blindly to
rulers bereft of all legitimate author-
ity, and thus abdicate their moral free-
dom. It is a cowardly system of false
brotherhood that excludes from its
fraternal (?) attentions all who are not
Masons, and pins the brethren to an
unmanly and puerile secrecy. No
wonder, then, that the Vicar of Christ
should have branded it, not only as
anti-Catholic, but as contrary to
natural ethics. Socrates and Cicero,
heathen though they were, would have
spurned it as an assault on their man-
hood. And yet, in this hour of trial,
when the local government is profess-
ing a wish to conciliate the Catholic
minority, the solemn tomfoolery is
linked to the sacred cause of education
with the tawdry tinsel of clerical clap-
trap. A strange way, indeed, of re-
conciling Catholics to the public
schools.

Mummery. We heartily con-
gratulate the C. M.
B. A. on having rejected the proposal,
made in their late Convention, to in-
troduce grips and pass-words. Such
devices are unnecessary and childish in
the extreme. Catholics ought to have
nothing to do with this Masonic mum-
mery. Other Catholic societies have
already copied too much of the para-
phernalia of forbidden lodges. Let
the C. M. B. A. remain free and frank
in all its ways. It has nothing to be
ashamed of; it counts the light of day.

HIS GRACE'S RETURN.

With heartfelt joy do we welcome
home our chief Pastor and Father in
God, the Most Reverend Archbishop of
St. Boniface. His Grace has visited the
tomb of the Apostles in Rome and has
enjoyed the privilege of a special audi-
ence from the successor of the Head
of the Apostles. From recently reported
interviews with our beloved Archbishop
we gather, as we also do from private
letters, that the Holy Father has fully
approved the stand Mgr. Langevin
takes and that this stand has not chang-
ed since His Grace left us last July. As
we go to press the train bearing to our
city the Archbishop and his suffragan,
Bishop Grandin, has not yet arrived.
We know His Grace will gladden the
hearts of all his flock by his happy
and speedy return in excellent health.
On his arrival he will be besieged by a
host of friends and admirers plying him
with questions innumerable; but we
trust those friends will remember that
His Grace's leisure is, especially at
the present moment, almost a vanish-
ing point.

THE IRISH RACE CONVENTION.

The newspapers are just to hand con-
taining lengthy reports of the proceed-
ings at the great Irish Race convention
held in Dublin during the first days of
this month, and it is plain to see that
the gathering was a great success. It is
true that the two factions known as the
Redmondites and the Healyites held
themselves aloof, and through their organs
did their best to make the affair a failure,
but the strength and truly representa-
tive character of the delegates from the
United States and the British colonies
was so evident that all the attacks made
on them from the sources we have men-
tioned were rendered harmless, and the
convention spoke with a weight and
authority which will undoubtedly cement
the people at home into one compact
force once more and eventually bring
about the unity of the parliamentary re-
presentation. The delegates from abroad
were not committed to either of the
various sections, they went into the
convention prepared to go earnestly into a
consideration of all the points at issue,
and they have declared in the name of
the Irish race that dissension must
cease and that Messrs. Redmond and
Healy and their followers are in the
wrong. These gentlemen, of course,
sneer at the convention, and profess
their intention of still following in the

path which they have trod, some of them
for several years past and others for
shorter periods; but it may confidently
be expected that the people at home will,
at the first opportunity, teach them a
lesson, and will return to parliament a
body of men really devoted to Ireland's
best interests, united under and loyal to
the leader who may be selected by the
majority. Although we in this part of
the country were not represented, still
we may, as Canadians, congratulate our-
selves on the fact that the delegates
from the Dominion were accorded the
place of honor in the convention. This
was as it should have been, for did not
the gathering meet at the instance of a
Canadian archbishop, the Most Rev. Dr.
Walsh, of Toronto? Amongst the repre-
sentatives from Canada who numbered
twenty-three in all, were some of our
best known public men and it is evident
that they made a splendid impression.
For all these reasons then, Irish sym-
pathizers all over the world, and espe-
cially here, may well rejoice that the
convention was held and that, practically
speaking, union is once more estab-
lished in Ireland.

VIEWS OF ARCHBISHOP IRELAND.

When the late lamented Archbishop
Tache was struggling to maintain the
constitutional liberties of the Catholic
minority in regard to education and,
in clear and moderate language, defin-
ing the position of the Church on this
question, the enemies of our cause
loved to quote the alleged attitude of
his grace, Archbishop Ireland, as con-
tradicting that of his episcopal brother
in Manitoba.

This journal fully met and refuted
the statements made by our opponents
and pointed out that the position of the
two Archbishops, while the same in
spirit, varied immensely in law. Arch-
bishop Tache was contending for a legal
and constitutional right which had been
confiscated, while the Archbishop of St.
Paul was endeavoring to effect a com-
promise with the authorities whereby
his people might be relieved from pay-
ing a double burden, but one which
those authorities had a legal and con-
stitutional right to impose. Because
the Archbishop of St. Paul, who had no
right in law, proposed to make certain
concessions to obtain a privilege from
those who had a legal right to refuse it,
our enemies in Manitoba argued that
His Grace of St. Boniface should be
content to waive the legal status which
the constitution gave to the minority
and accept any crumb of relief which
the majority would be prepared to offer
as a settlement. They labored indust-
riously to show that Archbishop Ire-
land's views on the importance of reli-
gious education were much more mod-
erate than those of our late Archbishop.
They went so far as to say that the Arch-
bishop of St. Paul did not look upon reli-
gious instruction as essential in the
education of the children of the Church.
While these statements were being made
anent the attitude of the St. Paul prelate,
His Grace and his clergy were maintain-
ing at tremendous sacrifices parochial
schools in which were educated the chil-
dren of the diocese. We would refer those
who believed, or professed to believe, that
the Archbishop of St. Paul did not look
upon religious instruction as essential in
the education of Catholic children, to his
recent pastoral letter, which we publish
in another column of this issue. In that
pastoral his Grace says:

"The Catholic school—the future will
prove it beyond a doubt—is the most fruitful
of all institutions for the preservation and
perpetuation of the faith of this country."

We quite agree with our contem-
porary, the (Chicago) New World, when it
says:

"It seems to us, with all respect, that the
Archbishop might even have gone a step
further and claimed that the past has proven
beyond a doubt that the Catholic school is the
most fruitful of all institutions for the pre-
servation of the faith in this country. This
has been abundantly proved, and is being
proved every day."

The absence of the Catholic school in
many parts of the United States has been
the direct cause of the loss of the faith of
thousands upon thousands of Catholic
children. It is nothing unusual to meet
with men and women in that country

bearing time-honored Irish Catholic
names and yet lost to the faith. Had they
not been thrown into the public school in
the absence of anything better, they
would have in all probably been saved
to the faith instead of being, as they are
now, tossed upon the turbulent sea of
doubt and error, or irreligion.

MATTERS POLITICAL.

From a Manitoba point of view the
most interesting incident of the week in
connection with the political situation
has been the frantic effort made by Mr.
Joseph Martin, backed by some of his
friends, to secure the vacant portfolio of
minister of the interior. In the langu-
age of the Tribune the members of the
cabinet have decided that Winnipeg's
ex-representative is "impracticable." This
is what everyone might have ex-
pected and we can hardly understand
how Mr. Martin could have imagined
that his claims to the position would be
considered. It seems, however, that he
really did believe that he could be taken
into the cabinet and now his dream is
over, even his strongest political enemies
must feel a certain amount of pity for
him, a feeling, though, which will be
tempered by the reflection that he has
only himself and his peculiar methods
to thank for the position in which he
finds himself.

The letters of the Governor-General to
Sir Charles Tupper show that the late
Government was practically dismissed
from office. They show also that the
representative of Her Majesty in this
Dominion took ground which can hard-
ly be said to be in accordance with
British precedents and gave some very
strange reasons for doing so. There is
little doubt that the whole matter will
be thoroughly discussed in Parliament
and it is hard to see how Lord Aberdeen
or his present advisers can satisfactorily
meet all the criticism with which they
will undoubtedly be assailed.

Another letter which has been laid
before Parliament after much pressure
had been brought to bear, and which
has excited considerable comment, is the
epistle of Major-General Gascoigne to
Major-General Cameron asking the lat-
ter for his resignation as the head of the
Kingston Military College. It would ap-
pear that the commander of the Cana-
dian forces wrote the letter very unwill-
ingly, but acting under orders, and it
will be interesting to hear why such or-
ders were given. We believe that Maj-
Gen. Cameron is a relative of Sir Charles
Tupper and some people are connecting
this with his hasty removal from office.
The matter has an ugly look and will
bear thorough investigation, especially
in view of the fact that there seems to be
no doubt that the dismissed official was
in every way fitted for his position and
that the college attained a high stand-
ard of efficiency under his rule.

Preliminary objections in the Mac-
donald election petition were heard last
week and dismissed. The argument in
the Winnipeg case has commenced and
is still in progress. It is difficult to un-
derstand what the promoters of these
petitions hope to gain. It is not likely
they will be successful, and even if they
are, the present member will undoubt-
edly be returned again. We should not
be surprised if the Winnipeg case were
withdrawn in view of the unsatisfactory
outcome of the visit of Mr. Martin and
his friends to Ottawa.

Truly the present government seem
to have prepared for themselves a peck
of trouble by their action last session,
and they now, no doubt, fervently wish
that they had not carried their obstruc-
tive tactics so far as they did. Above
all they must wish that the school ques-
tion had been settled by the late govern-
ment, and it may be taken for granted
that if they had the time over again they
would do their best to so arrange
matters that they would not
have to deal with such a
troublesome subject. With that, and a
few other questions which are the re-
sult of their old time obstruction, out of
the way, they would now have
comparatively smooth sailing, in-
stead of the stormy and tempestuous voy-
age which they are experiencing and
which threatens still worse for the future.

The member for Lisgar, in his paper,
the Tribune, claims to have had a good
deal to do with the discovering of
alleged scandals arising out of the late
government's methods of dealing with
convict-made binder twine. Although
he, of course, puts the matter in the
very worst light there does not seem to
be much reason for his frothy denuncia-
tions or for the scare headlines under
which they were given to the public. If