

# Northwest Review.

THE ONLY CATHOLIC WEEKLY PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH BETWEEN LONDON (ONTARIO) AND THE PACIFIC COAST

VOL. XXII, No. 38

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1906

\$2.00 per year  
50c. if paid in advance  
Single Copies 5 cents

## Current Comment

Nervous people who are haunted by the fear of appendicitis may be consoled by the saying of a Lausanne physician quoted by Dr. L. Menard in the "Cosmos," of June 9. "If a traveller," writes the Swiss doctor, "suddenly seized with appendicitis in the midst of a desert, lies down in the open air, covers himself up as well as he can and remains eight days without any help, without food or medicine, he will have a better chance of getting well than if he were in a civilized city, and treated by the princes of the medical art." Dr. Menard's reason for approving this extraordinary assertion is that so many mistakes are continually made by skilled surgeons. It seems that the fact of removing the appendix from a patient who has suffered severe pains is no proof at all that the sufferer had appendicitis, and that even when microscopic examination reveals an apparently diseased condition of the removed appendix that may merely be the result of the ligature made just before the operation.

One of our most thoughtful readers writes to us: "I was not half pleased with the last sentence of your first comment last week. Your conclusion to the contrast between the relations of Church and State in France and the United States was: 'Although the American system be theoretically debatable, practically it is vastly preferable to the present French system. Now it seems to me there can be no question or preference. The American system is good though not perfect; but the present French system is utterly bad.'" While entirely agreeing with our correspondent's correction, we beg to remark that the weak sentence he objects to was translated from M. Boyer de la Bouillane's remarks quoted by "La Semaine Religieuse" of Montreal. However, we are still inclined to think that an argument, the premises of which are so strong as to make the intelligent reader desiderate a more forcible conclusion, is a very effective one. Surely in any discussion it is a great triumph to elicit from a reader the complaint, "You might have drawn a much stronger inference." For this proves that you have attained the desired effect, complete conviction, and that you have done so in a very modest, undogmatic way. How different this is from the usual methods of the adversaries of our faith. From the weaker premises they draw the strongest and most unwarrantable conclusions, and thus sin against one of the fundamental rules of Logic. Logic forbids making the conclusion wider than the premises, but it does not forbid making it narrower.

We are going to quote something which contradicts opinions previously expressed in this journal. But as those opinions concerned matters of contemporary history which are in dispute, we welcome any contribution that will throw light on the facts. What we seek above all is the truth, and this we mean to find out even at the sacrifice of previous opinions. Our quotation is from the "Athenaeum," perhaps the fairest and ablest of English literary journals. Reviewing a work on the Congo controversy by Father Vermeersch, a learned and holy Jesuit, who is one of the pillars of the University of Louvain, a man whose fearless sincerity is the admiration of all Belgians, the "Athenaeum" says:

"La Question Congolaise," by Dr. Vermeersch, S.J., of the Catholic University of Louvain (Brussels, Charles Bulens), is a remarkable contribution to Mr. Cattier's side of the Congo controversy, and will be damaging to King Leopold. It shows that the opinion of the Catholic Church has been profoundly affected by recent discoveries. The language of the author is full of politeness to his King, and he writes in an apologetic form. This fact, however, only makes his admissions the more startling, and his conclusions the more acceptable to those in this country who have long been attacked as either in-

terested or hypocritical. Our author deals at length with the criticism which he thinks may fairly be made against the silence maintained for many years by Belgian doubters. He explains that "the Belgian is not an American, and not a revolutionist by nature. . . . The newspapers, predisposed our missionaries to a great and patient indulgence. . . . The attack came from Protestant missionaries. . . . Was it wrong of our missionaries to try regular and pacific steps, rather than make a noise, probably useless, and perhaps dangerous?"

Returning to the subject, he asks of the Belgian Catholic missions:—"Why did they hold their peace? Why did they prefer to suffer in silence the wrongs done to them and the poor negroes? . . . Because they had faith in the administration of their fellow-countrymen, in their assurances, in their promises. Because they loved Belgium and would not by declamation at the wrong time, play the game of a foreign nation."

After stating the reasons why they did not like to quarrel with the State, he tells us that it was a sacrifice "to the good name of Belgium." He then explains away previous declarations by the missionaries in favor of the State, and says that "after the publication of the Report the missionaries quitted their ordinary reserve. Nothing now ought to hold them back. . . . The King himself has asked for light."

There is now nothing in our author's attitude of which we in this country can complain. Father Vermeersch, in passing, destroys the whole fabric of King Leopold's assertions as to the State not being the creation of Europe. In some portions of the volume our author goes even beyond M. Cattier, and he also quotes with high approval a volume reviewed by us on its appearance, by "un honnête homme, le Baron de Mandat." We did justice at the time to the courage of the Baron de Mandat-Grancey. The great importance of the volume before us is that in some of its most terrible passages—as for example, at p. 250—the author distinctly states that "in giving this point in detail we have limited ourselves to transcribing the unanimous feeling with which their experience has inspired the missionaries,"—that is, the Belgian Catholic missions.

Speculation being rife as to what decision the French Bishops have come to in their council, which began on May 30, it may be as well to lay before our readers the wise and prudent advice given by our able contemporary, the Liverpool "Catholic Times," in its issue of June 8.

Naturally, the public journals, as well in England as in France, are busy prophesying what decision the Holy Father will adopt in regard to the local committees of worship, which transfer the management of ecclesiastical property to the hands of elected laymen. Their prophecies are the merest of guesses. All that is known at present is that the French hierarchy has met in secret conclave under oath to reveal nothing. And nothing will be revealed until the Pope speaks. Even then we shall not know how the prelates judged on the great issue which faces the Church in France. That some Bishops favor resistance is understood to be true. But others discountenance it as dangerous, impolitic and futile. The opinions for and against the acceptance of the Separation Law will be sent to Rome, and then, just as he thinks well, the Pope will decide irrespective of numbers. His decision will at once be made known and be loyally accepted. When it will be made or made known none can foretell and all prophecies are vain. Hence our readers may save themselves the trouble of perusing any of the numer-

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## OBITUARY

### THE LATE FATHER PERISSET

Joseph Perisset was born at Vauderens, near Freiburg, in Switzerland, in 1867. In his early manhood he was a gardener by trade; but, as he grew older he felt a calling to the priestly life, and with his own earnings and especially with the savings of a devoted mother, whose only son he was, he began the arduous studies necessary for the priesthood. In this he was greatly assisted by a distinguished clergyman, a Monsignor, who is the author of a well known work entitled "Les Saintes Abstinences." Thanks to his generous protector, he was admitted to a preparatory clerical seminary, the Institut de Bethlehem, at Immensee, in Switzerland. While studying theology, he met Rev. Father Lecoq, O.M.I., then travelling in Europe. The latter proposed to him to come out to Manitoba and ask to be admitted in the diocese of St. Boniface. Joseph Perisset eagerly accepted the offer, and, after some correspondence with the ecclesiastical authorities here, was duly admitted as a theological student here. He came to Canada early in February, 1903, and continued his theological studies under Rev. Father Dandurand, O.M.I., at the Archbishop's house. The letters he wrote at this time show how grateful he was to all who had given him a helping hand in the uphill work of preparing examinations at the age of 36 after many years of manual labour. As he was full of zeal for the sacred ministry, he was rapidly advanced in Holy Orders, receiving the tonsure in March, minor orders in September, subdeaconship and deaconship in October, and finally the priesthood on December 23, 1903.

His cheerful and optimistic disposition, his portly figure and apparently excellent health, gave promise of long years of fruitful labor in the vineyard of the Lord. He was first sent as assistant priest to St. Eustache, then to Grande Clairiere, afterwards to Pine-wood, and last year he was placed at the head of the new and struggling parish of St. Adelard. This is as yet a very poor mission; but, nothing daunted by pioneer beginnings, he worked earnestly among his people till at the end of Lent he was stricken with the malady—apparently some kind of blood poisoning—which rapidly sapped his abounding health and ultimately proved fatal. Some weeks ago he went to St. Boniface hospital, where an operation on a malignant growth on the neck gave him temporary relief. He said his last Mass eighteen days before his death. From that time forward Rev. Father Messier, the chaplain of the hospital, saw that the fatal ending was inevitable. But Rev. Father Perisset himself could not be persuaded that he was going to die. However, through deference to his devoted friend the chaplain, he consented to receive the last rites of Holy Church, although it was not till the day before his demise that he realized the approach of death. Then he bravely accepted God's holy will and expired peacefully on the morning of June 15. His mother survives him in Switzerland and will deeply mourn his untimely end, albeit she will be consoled by the memory of his virtues and his short but edifying career as a priest.

On Sunday afternoon the remains were transferred from St. Boniface hospital to the Cathedral, where they lay in state till the funeral which took place the next morning at 9 o'clock. His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface, sang the Requiem High Mass himself, having as assistant priest Monsignor Dugas. The deacon of honor was Father Messier, the subdeacon of honor was Rev. Father Woodcutter. Rev. Father Labonte, O.M.I., was deacon of office, and Rev. M. Pierquin, subdeacon; Rev. J. Poitras was Master of Ceremonies. Among the clergy present in the sanctuary were Rev. D. Dandurand, O.M.I., Rev. J. Dugas, S.J., Rev. C. Deshaies, Rev. Lewis Drummond, S.J., Rev. Fathers Camper, Laguerre and Van Gistern, O.M.I., Rev. Father Caron, and Rev. T. Pare. The Cathedral, which was heavily draped in mourning, witnessed a sympathetic gathering of the people and religious

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## Persons and Facts

The University of Ottawa conferred the following degrees at the close of the recent examinations: Licentiate of philosophy, Rev. J. E. Caron, O.M.I.; Rev. C. Paille, O.M.I., St. Charles, Man.; Bachelor of Literature, Donat Collin, St. Boniface, Man. Among the westerners to obtain medals were Henry McLeod, who captured the silver Medal presented by Rev. C. C. Delaney, Burlington, Vt., for highest place in third form A. Teddy Lisle, of Lloydminster, secured the gold medal in the third commercial course. Harry McDonald, of Macleod, Alta., and Nicholas Bawlf, of Winnipeg, were successful in the matriculation examinations.

The thriving town of St. Jean celebrated the feast of its patron, St. John the Baptist on Tuesday last. Rev. J. Blain, S.J., preached a patriotic sermon at the High Mass. This was followed by a successful banquet, at which many stirring speeches were made.

On Wednesday, the 27th inst., the town of St. Boniface celebrated St. Jean Baptiste day by a solemn High Mass, at which His Grace the Archbishop preached. After noon there were athletic sports with a picnic in the grounds of St. Boniface College, and in the evening Mr. Noel Bernier's new play was admirably staged before a large audience.

Brandon, June 26.—A wedding took place here at 7 o'clock this morning that caused quite a little flutter of excitement. The contracting parties were M. Tom, Chinaman, and Annie Stein, a Galician girl, who is both young and good looking. The ceremony took place in the Catholic church, after which the happy couple and their friends drove around the city, having five cabs at their disposal. At 10 o'clock they drove up to Davidson's photograph gallery and the whole group was photographed. In the meantime a large crowd of spectators gathered out of curiosity, to catch a glimpse of the pair as they left the gallery, and gave them a cheer when they again drove off in the cabs. M. Tom is a chef in one of the hotels here, and is reported to have considerable cash.—Free Press Evening News Bulletin, June 26.

Last Sunday the Chicago French Canadians celebrated their national feast of St. John the Baptist by religious and social festivities with great enthusiasm.

Chief-Justice Dubuc was sworn in on Tuesday morning as administrator of the Province during the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor Sir Daniel McMillan. The oath of office was taken by the chief justice before Mr. Justice Richards in the chief-justice's private room at the court house. The commission from the Governor-General was read by Mr. Graburn, the clerk of the executive council. Among those present were Mr. Justice Perdue, Mr. Justice Mathers, Hon. J. H. Agnew, acting Attorney-General, Hon. R. Rogers, Minister of Public Works; Sheriff Inkster, Mr. Walker, Prothonotary of the King's Bench, Mr. Wilkes, registrar, and Dr. Dubuc.

Dr. C. L. M. Harris, the head of the Hamilton Conservatory of Music, who recently conducted examinations, for Toronto University, in the theory of music at St. Mary's Academy, was impressed with the candidates who appeared before him. Despite their natural nervousness they all displayed the excellent results of their training. He was particularly impressed with a senior pupil, a young lady from Calgary (Miss Stella Burns).

A paragraph from President Roosevelt's address to the girl graduates of the National Cathedral school, Georgetown, D.C.:

"I want you to have your eyes on the stars, but remember that your feet are on the ground. . . . Now, I do not pity you because you will have

harder times ahead of you than you have had in the past. No man or woman worthy of being called a true man or woman, prizes life merely so far as it means absence of pain and effort. On the contrary, the thing that makes life worth while is the active achievement of things worth achieving."

Wallis Island in Central Oceania used to be called by its natives Uvea, or "Pearl of the Pacific." In a spiritual sense and from the view point of the Catholic missionary it still merits that appellation. Religion is in a flourishing condition in each of the three parishes into which the Island is divided, and in each of which are to be found a large church, a presbytery and a convent, all built of stone by the natives under the direction of the missionaries. There is a novitiate for native Sisters of the Third Order of Mary, and a seminary for the training of the native clergy. So far, this institution has given nine priests to the missionary field, and there are a score or more of other aspirants now following the courses leading to ordination. A detail worth noting is that the minimum age for the ordination of a native is thirty years—The Ave Maria.

James P. Clarke, Senator from Arkansas, is an Irish-American, a son of a Catholic Irish mother and father who lived in Yazoo City, Miss., where the present senator was born and reared. The little education which Senator Clarke got, except that which he obtained from his own labors, was received in a private Catholic school, conducted by Miss Helen Kearney, of Yazoo City, Miss.

A specially invited guest of the Canadian Women's Press Club at their recent meeting in Winnipeg was Mrs. Thomas Bennett of Regina, the Regina correspondent of our esteemed contemporary, the Northwest Review, for which she writes under the pen-name "Gena Macfarlane." Mrs. Bennet's maiden name was Annie M. Dunlop, and she was born at Baddeck, Cape Breton, being a daughter of Sheriff Dunlop of Victoria County. After studying at Baddeck Academy, she became a pupil of the Sisters of the Congregation de Notre Dame in Arichat. In her eighteenth year she asked admission to the Catholic Church and was received by His Lordship Bishop Cameron. After her graduation she taught school for some time at home and afterwards went as a teacher to the Northwest. There she met her future husband. In 1892 Mr. and Mrs. Bennett removed to Regina, where Mr. Bennett holds a position under the Department of Justice. Mrs. Bennett takes an active interest in the welfare of Regina, and as editor of the special Women's Hospital aid edition of the Regina Leader she lately spoke very plainly to her fellow-citizens on their city's shortcomings in hospital accommodation. Unlike many women over the border who feel that they have a public mission to perform, Mrs. Bennett has a large family, and believes that woman's noblest sphere of action is the home.—The (Antigonish) Casket.

St. Louis Catholics have up to date contributed \$665,000 towards their new cathedral.

The name of Rev. Wm. J. Foley, of Tusket Wedge, N.S., will be proposed to the Pope by the Congregation of the Propaganda for the Archbishopric of Halifax, N.S.

Archbishop Malone, P.P., V.G., of Kilmish, Ireland, died lately at the advanced age of 84. He was an active writer during his long life, and among his best known books are "The Life of St. Patrick" and "Adrian IV. and Ireland."

Rev. Father McGee, of St. Joseph's church, Stratford, Ont., has been ap-

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