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CURRENT COMMENT

Donahoe's Magazine for April was fortunate in securing a characteristic article from Seumas McManus. While travelling to Cripple Creek, Colorado, he meets two Irishmen who have become influential miners and yet bitterly regret their own home in the Green Isle.

The Scientific American for April 25 describes a concrete bridge just completed over the Big Muddy River, near Carbondale, Ill. The structure is 574 feet long and 34 feet wide. About 12,000 cubic yard of concrete were used in the bridge, which cost \$75,000. This is less than the cost of a modern double-track steel bridge of the same dimensions. We commend this as a suggestion for the proposed viaduct to connect Broadway bridge with Main Street. The arches rest on fan-shaped grillage supported by rows of piles.

The appalling crimes of murder, suicide, criminal assault, robbery, and divorce, not to speak of race suicide, were never so prevalent and so widespread in any civilized country in modern times as they are today in the United States. They would be disgraceful even to a pagan civilization. The restraints of the Christian law, and even of the natural moral law, are utterly cast off by multitudes who claim to be civilized because they have gone to public schools and are able to read and write.

Thoughtful men are forced to ask themselves for an explanation of this epidemic of crime, of which the record is spread out on every page of the daily papers. The truth is beginning to dawn on these people that Godless education, in a large measure, is the superintending cause.

A cablegram from Rome of recent date says:

"The Pope this morning received a number of people, including a special deputation from the British Catholic Union, headed by Lord Denbigh, and conversed in the most amiable manner with members of the deputation.

The pontiff was pleased to hear that his photograph, sent to King Edward by Monsignor Stonor, was most appreciated, being kept in the royal sitting room. Lord Denbigh quoted the king as saying that he liked exceedingly the healthy, benignant appearance of the pontiff."

What! Is it possible? Shade of the immortal William of Orange, gaze on this! The portrait of the "Man of Sin" occupying a prominent place in King Edward's room. Truly, "the times are out of joint."

What think you, Brothers Denison, O'Brien, Clark, et al? Undoubtedly the work of the wily Jesuit. Ha! a happy inspiration. The country may yet be saved. Fortunately there is in Canada a society "truly loil"—with an ardour and enthusiasm rivalled only by Mrs. Micawber in her devotedness to her unfortunate spouse. What is the matter with it calling an emergency meeting "resoluting" against popery in general, and the pope in particular, pointing out the danger to church and state by this the latest innovation of popery, and close by again placing itself on record as the only "truly loil" society in the British Empire. The "resoluting" will not hurt the Pope, 'tis true, but it will amuse the public, make more popular still a very popular king, and relieve the overwrought feelings of the "Order."

All Chicago, irrespective of creed today acclaims the noble work of Father O'Brien, of the Cathedral, and Sisters Rose and Genevieve of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, in connection with the conversion of two of the "car-barn" bandits, Gustave Marx and Harry Van Dine. Both of these murderers were non-Catholics—the one a Lutheran, the other a Methodist—but with death staring them in the face, they became reconciled to God and to each other (Marx had informed on Van Dine) through the mediation of a Catholic priest. So far as human eye could discern their conversion was genuine. For two weeks did this apostolic priest and these heroic nuns combat with the demon within the men, and at last won. It was an heroic struggle against great odds and was crowned with glorious victory. These men who two weeks before were hardened, despairing wretches walked to the scaffold firmly and fearlessly, whilst their unfortunate companion, who had refused priestly ministrations, had to be carried there, and was launched into the presence of an offended Deity with blasphemies on his lips. Marx and Van Dine died murmuring the Holy names of Jesus and Mary and confident of a glorious immortality. What a contrast in the deaths!

The conversion of these criminals serves to accentuate the apostolic mission of the Catholic priest, "I was in prison and ye came unto me." Thus He instructed, and thus have His ministers and holy women, often tenderly reared, for nineteen centuries, gone down to the despairing in prison and filled their souls with hope. And yet there are those who with satanic malevolence, seek to asperse the characters of these brave soldiers of Christ.

The conversion of these bandits will serve to accentuate this other fact as well, that while instances are numerous of non-Catholic conversions in the presence of death, cases are rare where Catholics at that solemn moment have abandoned that religion to embrace another. All of which points out the moral—Catholicism is a good religion to die in.

Clerical News.

His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface, and Rev. Father Lacombe set sail from New York last Saturday by the steamer "La Savoie."

Rev. Fathers Legault and Prod'homme returned last Monday from Ste. Rose. They preached several missions there and in the neighboring parishes.

The Right Reverend Monsignor Charles Allen, who was in the 26th year of his rectorship of the English college at Valladolid, in Spain, died there suddenly on April 4th in his 68th year. During his term of office he raised St. Alban's College to a height of prosperity never before reached in its annals.

Fifty thousand people were present at the Gregorian Mass in St. Peter's on April 11. The tickets of admission contained a notice admonishing the immense congregation to abstain from acclamations, and the Tablet correspondent says the "injunction was observed to the letter. Not a sound was heard as the Holy Father was borne above the heads of the multitudes, blessing the people right and left. But if the people did not cheer or cry out they waved their handkerchiefs until it seemed as if Pius X. were advancing over a sea of white waves. The effect was really more striking than if there had been the usual cries. The Gregorian music was wonderfully impressive. The choir of over twelve hundred voices sang in perfect unison, and the general effect was to produce an unwonted atmosphere of devotion."

Rev. Father Jolys, of St. Pierre, was here Wednesday.

Rev. Father Bourret, of St. Agathe, was at the Archbishop's palace last Tuesday.

On Tuesday morning, feast of the Finding of the Holy Cross, Rev. Father Camper, O.M.I., sang High Mass in the Chapel of the Grey Nuns' Mother House. Rev. Dr. Trudel preached.

Rev. Father Plante, S.J., is laid up with a sprained ankle, Rev. Father Chossegros, S.J., is suffering from Aphony, and Rev. Father Chaput, S.J., from inflammation of the middle ear.

The Brothers of the Cross of Ain are about to leave the Makinak farm, and will take up work in another parish, perhaps St. Jean Baptiste. Their place at Makinak will be taken by the clerics of St. Viateur. Rev. Father G. Belanger, who was here on Wednesday, goes to Makinak this week to prepare for the change of management.

St. John's, Newfoundland, is now an archdiocese. On April 3 the Rev. A. R. Howley, Acting Administrator, read the official translation of the Latin note from His Eminence Jerome (Hieronymus) Maria Card. Gotti, Card. Prefect of the Propaganda, which letter accompanied the Apostolic brief raising St. John's into an Archdiocese, St. George's into a diocese ordinary, and making St. George's and Harbor Grace suffragan to the Metropolitan See of St. Johns.

On Friday of last week Rev. Father Drummond returned from Brandon, where he had been presiding at the University examinations held in Brandon (Baptist) College. Seventeen candidates wrote on first, second and third year subjects, and one, the principal of the Hartney school, took the LL.B. papers. The principal of Brandon College, Rev. Dr. McDiarmid, Professor McKee and Vining and all the students of this flourishing institution were most cordial and courteous. On Monday, the 25, Father Drummond was invited to dine with the boarders and had to respond to Mr. Vining's address of welcome. During his stay in Brandon Father Drummond was the guest of the Redemptorist Fathers and preached in their beautiful new church three times, twice on the two Sunday evenings, and once in the evening of the 27th to the Children of Mary. The new St. Augustine's Church is the finest specimen of ecclesiastical architecture in Brandon, and one of the finest in the west. The acoustic properties of the building are admirably suited for singing; for preaching, they are also very good, provided the preacher does not speak too loud; else the resonance makes the articulation indistinct. The Redemptorist Fathers are doing excellent work here and in all their missions. The praise of the late Father Godts for his kindness, generosity and cheerfulness is in everybody's mouth. Father Gerard, the new Superior, is, however, a much better preacher than his predecessor, and a thorough business man. He it is who built the fine Redemptorist residence in Brandon. He is also a journalist of long experience, having been the first Redemptorist to edit the Annals of St. Anne de Beaupre, a very successful pious periodical. Father Borgonie preaches every Sunday in Polish for the benefit of the Poles and Ruthenians who form the most numerous element in the parish. It is very interesting to hear the Polish vespers sung by all the congregation on Sunday afternoon. Fathers Liettaert and Decoene attended outlying missions. Father Decoene came on one occasion to

Brandon College to dictate to the students of German a passage in that language. At both of Father Drummond's Sunday evening sermons a large number of Protestants were present. The first sermon was on the historical value of the proofs of the Resurrection, especially with regard to the value of human testimony in the case of a miracle. The second sermon turned on the veneration of images, a subject suggested by the blessing that Sunday of a new statue of St. Alphonsus Liguori.

Persons and Facts

The Assiniboine has backed over the district between Portage and Starbuck, so that residents of Fannystelle have been driven to their garrets.

Mrs. Elizabeth Delorme died last Monday at St. Charles at the age of 101. Mrs. Delorme was born and lived most of her life at Belcourt, N. Dak.

The Rev. J. B. Silcox, who has accepted a call to the capital of the Wolverine State, has undertaken a colossal surgical operation since he is going to devote his flamboyant energy to Lansing Michigan.

On last Saturday afternoon Messrs. Pratt & Dixon bought for \$45,000 the old 'St. Mary's Academy, which has recently been used as the Winnipeg College of Music. The new proprietors will fit up the building as an hotel.

The many friends of Mrs. J. A. Green, who so recently became a widow, will be grieved to learn that she is dangerously ill. Rev. Father Cahill, her pastor, administered the last Holy rites on Monday morning.

The Hochelaga bank opened its new branch in St. Boniface last Monday, with Mr. Desourdis as Manager. This is the first bank in the cathedral town. Mr. Joseph Desourdis graduated in Manitoba University from St. Boniface College in 1895.

Last Wednesday we enjoyed 78 degrees in the shade. Foster, forecasting on April 30, predicts that the high temperature will last a week; but from May 10 to 14 inclusive he expects some of the most dangerous storms of recent years. Meanwhile seeding is general throughout the province.

Now that Miss Bertha Mackenzie is resting comfortably with her sister, Mrs. Scott-Griffin, her many friends will thank God that she was not killed in the dangerous accident that befell her last Saturday. While she was riding with about fifty friends of the Winnipeg Riding Club, her horse, having to pass close to a market wagon, got one of its hind feet into the wheel, plunged forward, fell on its knees, then tore across the road with Miss Bertha hanging head downwards from the saddle. The feelings of her sister, who witnessed her terrible plight, may be more easily imagined than described, and when at length Col. Evans caught Miss Bertha in his arms, the blood was streaming down her face from the repeated blows of the horse's hoof against her head. However, she never for a moment lost consciousness and quietly remarked that she thought her arm was broken. Doctors Milroy and Blanchard who were immediately sent for, found that she had sustained a slanting fracture of the forearm and an ugly but not dangerous scalp wound.

Last Monday evening the members of the Catholic Club entertained their friends with a pedro tournament, followed by vocal and instrumental music. The tournament prizes fell to Miss Annie Killeen and Mr. J. H. Kennedy of the C.P.R. telegraphs.

Mr. W. H. O'Sullivan has built up a splendid business college in Brandon. At first he met with a good deal of silent aversion or underhand opposition because of his uncompromising profession of the Catholic faith, Mr. W. H. O'Sullivan being a leader in the Catholic choir; but of late he has established his reputation as a thorough teacher of commercial branches, and his pupils are from the best families in Brandon.

Catholic visitors to St. Paul, who have long deplored the sombre aspect of the Cathedral in that great city, will be pleased to learn that Archbishop Ireland has purchased the Kittson residence, at the fashionable corner of Summit, Dayton and Selby Avenues, as the site for a new Catholic Cathedral. It is understood that the price paid is \$52,000, and that the new building will cost about three million dollars and will be in every way worthy of the Pauline diocese.

The Sisters of Charity of the St. Boniface Hospital wish to express their sincere thanks to the undersigned for the kind donations offered during the past month: Mr. J. A. Prendergast, \$50.00, Dr. Todd, \$50.00, Dr. Peatman \$10.00, Dr. Burrige \$10.00, Dr. Riddell \$10.00, Mr. Kerr & Co., \$5.00, A friend \$15.00, Dr. Peatman, cut flowers; The Misses Stensby, McKenty, Haverty, cut flowers and plants; A friend, 15 lbs. of beef; Mrs. Lannigan, fowl and fruit.

On Saturday evening last the members of the Polish Society gave a very successful entertainment in the school hall of the Catholic parish of the Holy Ghost. The play, entitled "Kosciuszko podo Raclawicami," was made up of thrilling incidents in the first rising of the Poles against Russia after the partition of their country in the eighteenth century. The large audience greatly appreciated the dramatic talent of the performers, especially of Messrs. Chmieslowicz and Kamienski and Miss Peterinn. Between acts the parish school orchestra under the direction of Father Kulawy rendered appropriate selections. The programme ended with the singing of "God save the King."

At the end of last week and the beginning of this the waters of the Red and Assiniboine rivers remained at flood tide, with all the low-lying ground in Fort Rouge and St. Boniface inundated. There was even a slight rise on Saturday last. The day before it was still possible to cross dry shod the floating sidewalks between the Grey Nun Mother House and the St. Boniface Hospital; but on Saturday a part of that sidewalk which could not rise was covered with several inches of water, so that the hospital could be reached only by boats. The Winnipeg end of the Norwood bridge was slightly damaged, so that rigs could not cross. On Sunday the high water carried away another portion of the Artic Ice Company's storehouse, and the whole of that interesting suburb looks like a miniature Venice. The solitary electric car, which for a few days after the great flood still plied between Norwood bridge and the hospital had to go out of business owing to the encroachment of the waters on its track. On Monday the Assiniboine at Brandon was rising rapidly, and there was a slight rise in the Red River at Emerson.