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"AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM."

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A GRAND RECEPTION.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen Are Loyal Received.

At St. Albert—His Lordship, Mons. Grandin Reads an Address—The Governor-General Makes a Fitting Reply in which He Tenderly Alludes to The Good Sisters.

On Sunday, Oct. 14th the Vice Regal Party was expected at St. Albert. From the elaborate preparations being made, it was evident that the inhabitants of this locality fully appreciated the great honor conferred on them.

A beautiful arch of evergreens spanned the bridge, the stores on each side were gaily decorated with streamers, flags, mottoes etc. The road leading to the Bishop's palace was handsomely embellished with evergreens and shrubs. At the entrance of the Palace grounds another triumphal arch was erected bearing the inscription "God Save the Queen" while over the balcony of the Palace "Welcome" glittered in large letters of gold; the adjoining buildings were also handsomely decorated with flags, garlands and oriflammes, all breathing welcome to the illustrious guests. The weather was really delightful, one of these bright Autumnal days which it is often our privilege to enjoy in our Northern home.

Their Excellencies, the Governor-General and Countess of Aberdeen, Lady Marjorie Gordon, the Hon. Archie Gordon, Capt. Urquhart A. D. C. etc. accompanied by Very Rev. Pere Labombe V. G. drove to the mission preceded by the Police escort of honor, under Major Griesbach. As they approached, far in the distance could be seen the red coats and sparkling swords and spurs of the proud escort.

Their Excellencies were followed by a numerous train of carriages and horsemen from Edmonton. As soon as the party came in sight the Cathedral bells chimed their sweetest notes, and wafted away on airy wings their joyous welcome. The Brass Band struck up the "National Anthem," the flags and banners floated in the breeze while the woods re-echoed the happy tidings. The whole presented a scene so picturesque and vivid as will not, most likely, be forgotten by the many hundreds who witnessed it.

On arriving at the Palace the escort formed a guard around the entrance. His Lordship, Bishop Grandin, Very Rev. Father Leduc, Sup. and the other members of the clergy received their Excellencies.

All having taken places on the entrance steps, His Lordship read an address in French. Mr. W. H. McKenney then unfolded his address and read it in a clear distinct tone, on behalf of the Irish and the English speaking people of St. Albert.

Mr. A. Prince followed on behalf of the French Canadians and Half-breeds of the vicinity.

His Excellency then replied in French. He thanked His Lordship for the Royal reception and beautiful address and for the pleasure it gave him to visit this beautiful spot. He was proud to be the first Governor-General to visit St. Albert and he would treasure the memory of his visit as one of the sweetest souvenirs of his life.

His Excellency then continued in English and said: "The addresses with their beautiful illuminations and kindly expressions are highly appreciated, they will be kept as a permanent record and pleasing souvenir of your loyalty towards our gracious sovereign and your desire to do honor to the person chosen to represent her.

"I desire to thank the Irish most warmly for their kind and cordial greeting. I can assure you it is heartily appreciated. It is nothing new for Lady Aberdeen and myself to experience kindness, to be treated kindly, and to hear kindly sentiments expressed by Irish hearts. We know the Irish and we love them. We find that Irishmen are ever ready to manifest that kindly good will towards any person whom they regard as having been actuated by a sincere desire and purpose for the welfare of their country. (cheers)

"I admire the missionary zeal and indefatigable labors of His Lordship, Bishop Grandin, his clergy and the devoted Sisters of Charity who so ably second him in his missionary work, and I assure him and them that they will always have our warmest sympathy" (cheers)

Their Excellencies then retired to the Bishop's drawing room where they were entertained by His Lordship, the clergy and other friends. After a brief stay they proceeded to the school hall where 150 little ones of all races awaited their coming.

The hall was beautifully festooned with bunting and garlands, wreaths of roses and evergreens were scattered around; the walls, tastefully decorated with the beautiful mottoes of the noble houses of Aberdeen and Tweedmouth, were indeed a very pretty sight, "Welcome," "Gratitude," "Onward and Upward," "Joy reigns supreme" etc. etc. ornamented here and there. While the children, all gaily dressed formed indeed a pretty picture.

Their Excellencies, Lord and Lady Aberdeen, Lady Marjorie Gordon, the Honorable Archie Gordon occupied seats on a raised dais, with His Lordship, Bishop Grandin, Rev. Fathers Labombe, Leduc Merer, Vegreville, Dauphin, Mayor McCauley, W. H. McKenney, E. Brossan, W. Cust, A. Prince etc., etc.

The Hall, too small to contain the great crowd, was literally crowded, while hundreds remained on the outside of the building satisfied with the echoes of what passed within.

The reception was opened by a grand welcome chorus. An address of welcome couched in most pleasing terms was read in English by Miss J. Maloney. The French address expressive of loyalty and affection was recited by Master St. Jean. The presentation of bouquets was next in order; Miss Maud McKenney presented a bouquet to the Governor-General; Miss C. Miller to Lady Aberdeen; Miss Hectorine to Lady Marjorie and Miss Paradis to the Hon. Archie. Then followed a very pretty song which was well rendered by all the pupils. After this seven little girls, dressed in white, stepped forward and presented their greeting; it consisted of a recitation in verse each girl holding a gold letter emblematic of the tribute she desired to pay, where all the letters laid played their part they formed the word "Welcome."

His Excellency made a happy reply stating that he was almost overcome with the charms of the reception, and the expression of loyalty and kindness expressed towards him and Lady Aberdeen; his children too were treated so nicely, that he might indeed call the day, a day of flowers. He admired the decorations and the thoughtfulness and skill that were evident throughout. He commended the mottoes and advised the children to adopt them and ever "Advance with courage."

After granting a grand holiday to the children the Vice regal party went to the convent where they were entertained to luncheon with the principal citizens of St. Albert and Edmonton.

The Cathedral was next visited and admired, the altar-angels, sculptured and painted as they are, are considered a fine specimen of artistic skill.

Evening was drawing to a close as their Excellencies bade farewell to the inhabitants of the mission and the people who had done so much to honor them. As they left the Cathedral bells chimed adieu and the air was rent with cheers for Lord and Lady Aberdeen. Thus passed a day ever to be remembered with joy and gratitude by the happy throng who witnessed the visit of Lord Aberdeen and his gracious consort to St. Albert.

MR. MERCIER IS DEAD.

The Great French-Canadian Leader Passes Away After a Lingering Illness—His Life.

MONTREAL, Oct. 30.—The Hon. Honore Mercier died this morning about quarter to 9 o'clock. His end had been expected any time during the preceding twenty-four hours and all hope of his recovery was given up weeks ago. In fact from the moment he first fell seriously ill, on 14th August last, it has been felt that he lay on his death bed. Mr. Mercier has been suffering from a complication of diseases for many years past, diabetes predominating. Yesterday Mr. Mercier was unconscious most of the time. At a late hour last evening he was very weak. Morphine was administered at 10.30 and the patient became much agitated. It was then feared by his physicians that a reaction would take place and the end might come at any minute throughout the night. The vital spark flickered, grew lower and lower, until the end came. Mercier, in his prime, would have weighed close on to 185 pounds but his dead body is now a mere skeleton so much has it wasted away.

Mercier was unconscious when he died, and had been so for many hours. He was surrounded by his wife and his children. Madame Decabe, Madame Mercier's sister, and her brother, Elward. The funeral will take place on Friday or Saturday at the church of the Gesu.

BIOGRAPHY.

The Hon. Honore Mercier was the son of M. J. B. Mercier, of Athanase, P. Q., who came from France to the district of Montmagny, afterwards removing to Iberville. He was born Oct. 15, 1840, and was therefore 54 at the time of his death. He received his education at St. Mary's (Jesuit) college, in Montreal, and was first married on May 29, 1866, to Mlle. Leopoldine Boivin, of St. Hyacinthe. His wife dying a few years after, he took unto himself a second wife on May 9, 1861, in the person of Mlle. Virginie St. Denis, of the same city. In 1867 he was called to the bar and was elected one of the directors of the Parti National in January 1872. He was also the author of L'Herolisme and La Patrie, two lectures written in 1865. He filled the chair as editor of Le Courrier at St. Hyacinthe from 1862 to 1864 and for a short while in 1866. He was appointed Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Gregory the Great (Roman) in 1888. Sat in the House of Commons for Rouville from 1872 till 1874. On Jan. 27, 1887, Mr. Mercier became Premier of the Province of Quebec, a position he succeeded in holding until July, 1890. The House dissolved on May 9. The general elections followed soon after, on June 17, and Mercier's position which had been much weakened by charges of dishonest administration and the famous Baie des Chaleurs scandal, suffered defeat at the hands of DeBoucherville. Although he had previously represented St. Hyacinthe he was this time elected for the constituency of Bonaventure, which he represented on the opposition benches up to the time of his demise.

TO THEIR HEAVENLY HOME

Two Sisters of the Order of Grey Nuns pass away.

At St. Boniface last week—A very Remarkable Coincidence Attached to Their Death—They lived together, died together and are buried in the same Grave.

Scarce two weeks have passed since it was the sorrowful task of the Review to record within its columns the sad news of the demise of a beloved Sister of the Academy. Now again does a similar duty fall to its lot, and this time the sorrow is increased for a double death. Laid down a cloud upon the religious community of St. Boniface. There are left two sources of consolation—the one that those two holy nuns who have been called away from this earth, are now reaping the reward of their labors; the other that their death must be fraught with salutary consequences to all, for no more grand example of the peaceful end of the religious could be furnished.

As the very strange circumstances connected with the deaths herein recorded are being studied, they come to Catholics in a manner stranger than fiction, and indeed there is attached to them a most peculiar series of co-incidences. The novelist would in them find ample field for a fanciful creation, and his pen would have a whole host of sweet consoling thoughts wherewith to intersperse the plot.

Five years ago, for it was in 1891, two beautiful young ladies then aged nineteen and twenty respectively, resolved upon entering their Master's vineyard and chose for their calling the life of a religious. They made their vows as Sisters of the Order of Grey Nuns in 1891. Side by side did they forever renounce the vanity and frivolity of the world, for sweeter to them appeared the joys of the cloister. Though their careers as holy Sisters was not a lengthened one, nevertheless it has borne its fruit. For five years they worked together, Sisters in religion, and dearer to each other than sisters in flesh and blood. But a weak constitution was their heritage, and soon that dread disease—consumption, began to make inroads upon their health. For four years it came tenaciously to them never relinquishing its fast hold. But they, however, did not yield. Through all this time they worked and labored faithfully and faithfully, and not until their frail bodies were no longer able to withstand the attack did they give up. One of the Sisters entered the infirmary last September; the other followed soon after. As patients they were side by side. What happy and holy thoughts must have been theirs during the long days and nights of their lingering illness! What a wholesome communion between two holy nuns during their last sojourn upon earth! On the morn of Tuesday, October 17, the first of the Sisters, passed peacefully and quietly away; without struggle or pain she went from earth to heaven, no doubt feeling a certain sorrowful emotion that her dear dying Sister was not with her in her joy. But she did not have long to wait, as her holy body was being taken out of the room where she died, and as it was being carried to the bed, the other Sister turned her face towards it and exclaimed: "Good-bye, dear sister, I will meet you soon." And so her words were fulfilled in very truth, for at seven o'clock in the evening of that same day, she too was called away to the home of her Heavenly Father.

Together they crossed the threshold of the cloister; together they plighted their solemn vows to be forever true and dutiful Sisters of the Order of Grey Nuns; together they worked during their brief career; together they sank down from the ravages of that same dread disease—consumption; together they prayed and communed as they lay side by side in their last sojourn upon earth; almost together they died; the self-same funeral service sufficed for them both; and now in the same grave do their chaste and saintly bodies repose. Such is the strange and sad chapter of their career—a chapter most remarkable, and replete with savory subjects of meditation. Sister Marion when nineteen years old entered the novitiate of the Grey Nuns; this was in 1891. Shortly after her reception consumption threatened her, and though it followed her steadily for four years, she never till the last ceased her efforts. She taught school at St. Jean Baptiste till June 21st last, when she returned to St. Boniface to spend the summer months. In September she was compelled to enter the infirmary, where she died on Oct 17 at 4 o'clock in the morning, aged twenty four years.

Sister Laurier entered the Order of the Grey Nuns in 1891; she was then twenty years of age. She too suffered from consumption and succumbed to it on the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 17. The funeral services were most impressive. Fourteen priests and ten ecclesiastics were in the sanctuary of the St. Boniface Cathedral. Very Rev. Fr. Allard celebrated the solemn requiem high mass, with Rev. Fathers Dufrain and Cloutier, as deacon and subdeacon respectively. The clergy marched in procession to the convent, and after blessing the bodies, returned to the cathedral chanting the "Miserere" and followed by the remains the Sisters. In the immediate rear of the bodies came the Sisters and relatives. The funeral cortege passed between two long files of children, ranged on either side of

the walk, and consisting of the Boarders of the Academy, the orphans and Indian boys and girls. The coffins were according to the rules of the Order, made of unstained pine boards. Both were placed side by side in one grave.

All through their illness Sisters Marion and Laurier never complained, even though they suffered all the pains of their disease. They never even asked for a glass of water, their only ambition being which one would be the most cheerful and patient. The community have lost two young promising subjects but they are consoled by the remembrance of their pure and holy lives, and their saintly deaths. R. I. P.

WOMEN IN POLITICS.

Cardinal Gibbons Glad They Have Not the Right to Vote.

"While Men Are Sovereigns of the Country Their Wives Command Them, and Therefore Exert a Controlling Power".

On Sunday, October 8th Cardinal Gibbons preached in the Cathedral at Baltimore. His remarks were addressed particularly to the women of the congregation, and in it the Cardinal took occasion to express his views on woman suffrage. He said in part:

"Almost every day of the week is devoted to the commemoration of some servant of God whom we honor at the altar or love to venerate or hold up to the people that they may admire and love and become more and more conformable to the life of Christ, who is the King of Saints. One day we celebrate the life of an apostle, another the life of a martyr or priest or matron. Such is the festival Monday, when we commemorate the life of a princess of the royal house of Stockholm, in Sweden. To-day we honor the Queen of Saints, the Virgin Mary."

"I think any dispassionate student of history will acknowledge that woman is indebted to the example of Mary for her elevated position both in social and domestic life. If to-day woman is the mistress of her household and not a tenant at will; if to-day she is the queen of her home and not confronted by other women in her own house, it is because of the teaching of the Catholic Church."

"The Church declares that woman is the peer and equal of man. Almighty God, in His distribution of gifts, makes no distinction on account of race, previous condition or of sex. St. Paul tell us we are brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, the temple of the same God, and aspirants to the same heaven. If the Church has been the honor of woman, she well deserved the privilege."

"It would be fearful to contemplate the condition of society but for the influence of woman. I speak of women living in the world who wear no habit except the white robe of innocence or the robe of charity and benevolence. I do not speak of religious communities, but of the mother superior of the home—the mother of the household. How many homes there are throughout the land to which God shows His mercy on account of some devoted mother; how many brothers there are who would have been buried in the grave of sin but for the prayers and example of a pious sister; how many homes where the lamp would have been extinguished but for the oil of good works of mother and sister; how many where the mother is the expiating angel for the sins of the male sex."

"My sister in Christ, so and do likewise. Every one of you has a mission to perform. I care not how circumscribed your influence. You can not be priests, but you can be apostles by prayer and preachers by charity and good works in your own homes. You are priests in a broad and general sense because you were consecrated to God at your baptism"

"Woman, it is true, does not have the right of suffrage and does not vote, and I am heartily glad of it for her own sake and hope the day will never come when she will do so. Bear in mind that as soon as you enter the arena of politics you will carry away some of the mud and dust. If you coinmate in politics, rest assured you will lose a good portion of the veneration in which you are now held."

"The proper sphere of woman is in the home, and the more influence she gains in public life the more she will lose in private life. While men are the sovereigns of the country, their wives command and therefore exert a controlling power. Above all things, take care of your homes."

"You are the best teachers of your children. If every Christian home was a Christian school, as it ought to be, there would be less talk of Christian education in the public schools. The woman is the best teacher because God so ordained. She exercises more influence than any other living person. She is an oracle to her child. The greatest merit in Church or State were blessed with pious mothers, to whose early instructions they owed all that they were. I might name a long catalogue. St. Louis of France spoke of his sublime mother as an angel. Chief Justice Taney was accustomed to speak of his instructions on his life. John Randolph of Roanoke tell us that 'but for his mother's influence he would have become an infidel and an atheist."

"Let me beg of you to fulfil that mission which God has assigned to you. When husband and son come home let them find there a place of rest. Do not pour out the bitter gall of sharp words, but the oil of consolation. Be angels of charity and guard the sanctity of your homes and keep the fires of conjugal love burning."

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