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BRIEFLETS.

A report of a successful concert in Father Poitras' church, Rat Portage, is crowded out till our next issue.

Rev. Father Marion, O. M. I., went last week to Rat Portage to take Rev. Father Cahill's place at the industrial school.

This is one of the shortest days in the year, though to-morrow, the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, is commonly supposed to be the shortest.

The midwinter examinations are now going on in St. Boniface College; the Christmas holidays begin on the 24th to end on the 2nd of January.

The Midnight Mass at St. Mary's, Winnipeg, promises to be, in the way of decorations and music, worthy of the best traditions of that beautiful church.

Mr. Alfred J. Andrews and Mr. G. F. Carruthers are both running for the Winnipeg mayoralty. The former runs little chance of being defeated to-day.

Rev. Father Cahill, O. M. I., left lately to see his father who is dying at Calumet Island near Ottawa. The Rev. Father will also have some business to transact in the Capital.

The wife of "Laughing Joe," the itinerant Indian who guffaws hysterically for five cents, died last week and he came in just too late for the funeral at St. Boniface.

Mr. Edmond Trudel, of the Dominion Land Department, left, with his family, last week for Regina, whither he has been transferred. He will be greatly missed in musical circles here.

Henceforth the official mail-bag will leave St. Boniface for Winnipeg at 8.30 a. m., 11.15 a. m. and 2.30 p. m., and it will return to St. Boniface from Winnipeg at 10 a. m., 1.30 p. m. and 5.15 p. m.

At Wednesday's meeting of the provincial cabinet, Mr. S. A. D. Bertrand was appointed a member of the advisory board. The government has the power of appointing six members of the board, of which Mr. Bertrand is the fifth.

Mr. Hanbury, the English explorer from Baffin's Bay, who is now staying at the Manitoba Hotel, Winnipeg, reports having seen immense herds of buffalo in the north and scouts the idea of the bison being nearly extinct.

His Lordship Mgr. Legal, O. M. I., arrived from the east last Wednesday, and stopped over till Saturday, when he went on as far as Regina. He was accompanied as far as St. Boniface by Rev. Father Marion, O. M. I., who will labor in this diocese.

Rev. Father Guillaume, pastor of Argyle, Minn., made a retreat last week in St. Boniface College. Three boys from his parish—Ohmer, Cormier and Sansregret—are students of the college. Father Guillaume is a native of Clermont-Ferrand in Auvergne, France.

About one hundred friends of Mr. Edmond Trudel gathered last Wednesday evening in the C. M. B. A. hall in St. Boniface to wish him Godspeed in his new post at Regina. Addresses were delivered by Mayor Bétournay, Messrs. S. A. D. Bertrand, C. H. Royal, E. Guilbault, H. Béliveau. Before the meeting

broke up Mr. Trudel was presented by Mayor Bétournay with a well filled purse.

Last Wednesday, the 14th inst., was the twenty-eighth anniversary of the burning of the old cathedral "with the turrets twain" and the Bishop's palace at St. Boniface. Mgr. Taché was then hundreds of miles away in the Northwest, shivering before a wretched campfire.

Rev. Father Drummond is being treated for sore throat at St. Boniface Hospital and therefore could not preach the sermon on the Confessional which he had announced for last Sunday; nor will he be able to deliver his usual monthly lecture on the Bible in the Church of the Immaculate Conception next Sunday.

In last issue of "Le Manitoba" appears a letter signed by "Several Electors", protesting against the opposition now being made to Mr. Victor Mager as Reeve of the St. Boniface rural municipality. No fault is found with his opponent, but the electors wonder why Mr. Mager, who has served the municipality so long and faithfully, should now be put to the trouble of a contest.

The other day in the chapel of St. Boniface Hospital one of the patients, Mr. Marchand of St. Norbert, aged 73, served Mass without a mistake although he had not done so for almost sixty years. Those who know how long it takes an ordinary boy to learn the responses, and how soon that ordinary boy forgets them, will appreciate the retentiveness of Mr. Marchand's memory.

OBTUARY.

The Casket.

A good citizen and a sincere Christian was unexpectedly called away at Fraser's Mills on Saturday, 3rd inst., in the person of the late Ronald McDonnell, of that place. Mr. McDonnell, who was a remarkably robust and vigorous man, was seized with appendicitis a few days before his death and succumbed to the dread malady after much intense suffering, which he bore with true Christian fortitude, strengthened by the devout reception of the last Sacraments. He leaves a sorrowing widow, two sons and four daughters to cherish the memory of a good father and an upright man, who enjoyed the esteem of all who knew him. One of his sons is in Boston and two of his daughters live in Winnipeg. The death of a child of one of the latter—Mrs. Peter O'Brien of the Immaculate Conception parish, Winnipeg,—appeared in last week's CASKET. May he rest in peace.

A POET'S ERROR PERPETUATED.

The Boston TRANSCRIPT on Nov. 25, the fiftieth anniversary of the departure of Pius IX from Rome, resurrected Whittier's lines addressed to the exiled Pope. They were not based on fact in the past, and in the light of the present their falsity of tone is strikingly apparent. We give below a letter from a valued correspondent dealing more at length with the subject:— WINCHESTER, Mass., Dec. 1 1898. I am sorry that the TRANSCRIPT printed the verses. The editor can not have read Crawford's book on Rome, just published, with his long and careful estimate of Pius IX.' character. Whittier calls him "COWARD AND CRUEL." He might as well have dalled him a negro: it would have been quite as true and not one-half as unjust. Whittier was a well-meaning, good man, but his knowledge and opinion of the Pope, and the Church generally, were those of the average New

England Orthodox country deacon of his day. And there are hundreds of TRANSCRIPT readers now who have no sufficient knowledge to act as a corrective to this dose of misguided hatred and bitterness, mixed long ago by Whittier's hand and now re-administered by some careless and ill-informed sub-editor in the TRANSCRIPT office. This is the way in which history is made, and error and injustice perpetuated. Pius IX. was as brave, gentle, kind-hearted, amiable a man as the Quaker Poet himself, with ten times more intellect, knowledge of the world, wit, learning and accomplishments than Whittier could possibly pretend to.

CAINE AND CORELLI.

Ave Maria.

A vigorous writer in the London QUARTERLY REVIEW, a non-Catholic periodical, pays his respects to the sort of novelist who sacrifices Christianity to fiction. "Great and manifold as has been the mischief wrought by unbelief," he says, "it has hardly done worse than call out a reaction which despises logic, turns faith to mythology, canonizes the absurd, and so distorts the Christian as to make him at once an imbecile, visionary and a murderous fanatic. Those who defend him on such lines are his most formidable enemies, and Voltaire would have welcomed them." This criticism, which will commend itself to all right-minded readers, was provoked by Hall Caine's "Christian" and the productions of Miss Marie Corelli.

NOVEL BY RIDER HAGGARD TREATING OF THE VACCINATION QUESTION.

A new novel entitled "Doctor Theme," by Rider Haggard, was published by Messrs. Longman & Co. in November. The story, which is told by the principal actor, Dr. Theme, after the catastrophe, deals with the result of the conscientious-objection clause, under which the safety of many thousand children and through them of the community is practically left in the hands of the antivaccinationist party.—British Medical Journal.



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