

## THE LITTLE LORD.

"*Parvus Dominus et amabilis nimis.*"—*St. Francis of Assisi.*

Within the chapter of a cloister old,  
Torre d'Amalfi is its name so fair,  
A curious tapestry, on the wall unrolled,  
Related in devices quaint and rare,  
How that the Saviour in a manger lay,  
Naked and lorn, upon wisps of hay.

Mary, the Mother, knelt upon the right,  
Upon the left knelt Joseph with rapt eye;  
And helpers twain, one russet and one white,  
Poured warmth from their pink nostrils, standing by;  
While, through the open roof, upon a cloud,  
Were troops of Angels seen, that hymned aloud.

Before this picture, on one Christmas night,  
Saint Francis and his monks were come to pray,  
When, sudden, quickened by an inner light,  
The holy man besought each one to say  
What was the burden of the Angel's song  
Sounding the ilex and fox-grapes among.

Smiling, the choir of hooded Cordeliers  
In full accord intoned the canticle,  
Which now, for hard on twice one thousand years,  
The hearts of Christ's elect have loved so well;  
"Glory to God unto the Highest, and  
Peace to good men upon the sea and land!"

Francesco's eyes with heavenly light were fired,  
An aureole beamed above his sainted head;  
And, turning to the crib, like one inspired,  
In sweetest accents, to his monks he said:  
"Not so. To me 'tis this the Angels tell:  
'O Little Lord, exceeding loveable!"

I oft bethought me, dwelling on this scene,  
As even sinners will, in happier mood,  
'Tis best to pass the glory and the crown,  
And set our hearts upon the simple good;  
Believing that Saint Francis found the key  
To all the grace of the Nativity!

So on this Christmas eve, when from above,  
Strange loads of care are bearing on my soul,  
Severed from mine, and seeking for a love  
That shall bestead me through the days of dole,  
I bow my head and whisper only this:  
*Parvus Dominus et amabilis.*

—JOHN TALON-LESPERANCE, in *Dominion Illustrated.*

## MR. CURRAN, M.P., ON THE TRUE INTERESTS OF CANADIAN WORKING MEN.

Mr. J. J. Curran, M.P., contributes to the Christmas number of the *Canadian Workman* a paper of much interest and instruction to workingmen. The writer describes the working of our legislation, and shows that in a country like ours, where all are workers, the interests of labour and capital are bound together. We quote the concluding portion of Mr. Curran's article, which may be read by all classes with equal profit:—

Our amended laws relative to trades unions relieving organized labour from the penalties to which it was formerly subjected, giving freedom of combination to the toilers, enabling them thereby to secure a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, have proved most efficacious and prevented capital from tyrannizing over labour. Indeed, owing to the generally judicious action of these organizations in confining their demands to the strict limits of justice and fair play, it may be said that never were the interests of labour and capital in our midst so firmly bound together, and the graceful way in which the organs of labour acknowledged their obligations to employers in the recent election of a workingman's candidate for Montreal East, shows that we may hope for a more generous *entente cordiale* in the future.

Workingmen's associations are the natural outgrowth of the present state of society, and thoughtful workers will join them, not only to promote their avowed objects, but, through their healthy influence, to keep the organizations in the right path, and prevent their being made

stepping stones to place and power for unscrupulous manipulators and boodling wire pullers. The election of a labour representative to the House of Commons must result in good, and on all subjects within the competence of that body, self-preservation, not to speak of higher notions, will engage political parties to incline a willing ear to every reasonable proposition. In the early future, spokesmen of the labour interest will find their way to a seat in every local legislature in the Dominion, where not less may be accomplished in the way of needed reforms. All these things may be accomplished by labour well organized and honestly directed. Whilst membership in such bodies is to be commended, the prudent worker, with the responsibility of a family upon him, will not fail to belong to another class of organization which has recently taken, we trust, deep root in our midst. Formerly life insurance was the privilege, if not solely of the rich, at all events, did not extend beyond those enjoying large salaries or revenues, from which the premiums could be spared. Christian philanthropy has brought into life such associations for Catholics as the C. M. B. A., and kindred societies amongst our Protestant fellow citizens, by which, at small cost, a good round sum may be provided for the family of the bread-winner at his decease, for whom in turn death is thus shorn of half its terrors.

No true hearted workingman will fail to enroll himself in some such association. At this season when peace to men of good-will is the angels' song, all that tends to that peace and makes it permanent is of deep interest. In our present social condition in this Province not only will the cause of peace be promoted, but that of labour advanced, if workingmen are alive to the fact that all their energies must be combined and race division effaced. For that the cultivation of both official languages must not be neglected in our schools. The language line is a serious one in our community; it cannot be overcome in a day, but wise men will look beyond the present, and our children will be taught not only in their daily lesson, but by social intercourse, the speech of their neighbours. Thus shall they acquire another tongue, but, what is better, realize the noble traits of character and manly virtues of their brother Canadians, side by side with whom Providence has cast their lot, in this happy land. Peace is likely to reign in a country where the people are satisfied with and cling to their institutions, where a policy productive of plenty prevails, where good men of all classes agree to differ on political questions and discuss them with intelligence and moderation, where the rights of capital are respected and those of labour recognized and enforced, and, above all, where honesty and sobriety reign, and the golden rule of doing unto others as we would wish others to do unto us, is put into constant practice.

## MONTREAL GOSSIP.

The opening of the new C. P. R. Station on Windsor Street is a boon and a blessing. Montreal has been so long devoid of a decent railway station that she will scarcely know herself now with two that are decidedly above mediocrity. When the new Bonaventure Station was given to us, we were duly thankful, for the memories of the old one were hideous. Such of us as have spent a frosty morning within those now illustrious precincts, waiting for a train, say the Vermont Central—usually one hour late—have as a rule some lasting souvenir of that same frosty morning—an often recurring twinge of rheumatism, an ear, tender to the least touch of cold, owing to its having been badly frozen, or a winter spent in enforced seclusion owing to bronchitis with its asthmatic accompaniments. Was there not a waiting room? you ask. Well, there was a sort of apology for that luxury—with a stove in the centre, and a few seats quite at the other end. If you wanted to warm your feet you were obliged to treat one at a time, standing at a respectful distance from the stove in the attitude generally ascribed to a stork upon a sofa cushion.

I once committed the indiscretion of asking one of the