



CURRENT COMMENT

"H.A.P." writes to us: "Is not 1903 a prime number? If so, this augurs well for 1903 being a prime year. However, I am not quite sure. I have tried to divide it and have not found it divisible so far. But I cannot find any list of prime numbers among my books. It strikes me there must be very few prime numbers among the nineteen hundreds, since it is, I believe, a principle that the larger a number becomes the less chance there is of its being a prime number." Our correspondent was not very persistent in his search for divisors, since 11 will divide 1903 without remainder, the quotient being 173. But, as 11 and 173 are both prime numbers, 1903 is the product of two prime numbers and therefore closely related to that exclusive set.

The prime number years of the twentieth century are the following: 1901, 1907, 1913, 1931, 1933, 1949, 1951, 1973, 1979, 1987, 1993, 1997, 1999—in all, thirteen. The principle to which our correspondent appeals is true of only great masses of numbers, and not of hundreds. For instance the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries each contained only twelve prime number years, as against thirteen in the twentieth. But if we take numbers by the ten thousand we find 1,230 prime numbers between 1 and 10,000; 1,033 between 10,000 and 20,000; 985 between 20,000 and 30,000, the total of the prime numbers always diminishing. The most complete table of prime numbers is Dase's, which extends to 9,000,000.

"The Catholic Home Annual," fourth year, 1903, is the church calendar for Brandon and the missions dependent thereon. This neat booklet of 76 pages contains much valuable information, among other things an interesting biography of St. Wulstan, the patron of the new church at Rapid City and Bishop of Worcester in the time of Edward the Confessor and William the Conqueror. Another useful item is the paragraph on Oriental Rites, a very practical one, considering the large number of Uniate Ruthenians receiving the ministrations of the Redemptorist Fathers in the western part of this province. It is a pity the article on "Pope Leo XIII." is almost five years old. Had it been corrected down to date we should have been reminded that only one of the ten popes there mentioned as having reigned longer than Leo XIII. (in 1898) remains, at the present moment (January, 1903) ahead of him in length of pontificate. As a retrospect, however, the article is instructive, since it shows how many of his predecessors Leo XIII. has outstripped in the last five years. "The Catholic Home Annual" is replete with advertisements that tell of the prosperous condition of the Brandon district and of the way in which Winnipeg firms reach out for the trade of the Wheat City.

Though rather late, owing to the urgency of other articles, we are happy to publish the Calgary Herald's report of the banquet tendered to Father Lemarchand on the occasion of his departure for Edmonton, whither he has been called to devote his rare business abilities to the financial interests of the St. Albert diocese. Father Lemarchand won golden opinions as pastor of St. Mary's church, Calgary, and it is only fitting that so able a parish priest should be succeeded by that illustrious and devoted apostle, Father Iacombe.

A wiseacre, hailing from Lebrét, Assa., and veiling his identity under the characteristic pen-name of "Patriot," took the trouble recently to publish in the Free Press, together with a letter of his own, animadverting upon us, a high-pitched eulogy, from some American paper, of a distinguished person whom we have occasionally criticized. Like all the admirers of that spread-eagle school, neither the correspondent nor the eulogy dealt in anything but glittering generalities. So long as they do not controvert any of our specific allegations, the mere mention of their effusions must suffice.

There comes to us from Rev. Father Viens, pastor of St. Cuthbert's church, Portage la Prairie, the "Catholic Calendar and Parish Messenger" for that parish and its outlying missions, printed in Montreal. One of its practical features is the full calendar for the whole year with all festivals and saints' days clearly tabulated. Another good feature is the chapter on the "Use of Latin" in the liturgy of the Church, for which four excellent reasons are given. J. E. Brown, one of the many advertisers in this calendar, has hit upon a very appropriate catch-word for his advertisement; he says his business is "Built on a Rock," which would naturally remind a Catholic of the rock on which his own Church is built. We notice with pleasure that one Winnipeg firm, a Catholic one, advertises in Father Viens' calendar.

The Hon. Geo. W. Ross, Premier of Ontario, is said to be the most finished elocutionist in Canada. He is certainly a master of phrase, as when, in his reply to the Hon. S. H. Blake's letter to Mr. J. J. Foy, he speaks of "the brawling brood of bribers." Unfortunately his reply may be summed up in the common rejoinder, "You're another, only worse." Both parties in saintly Ontario seem tarred with the same brush. What a fall from the halcyon rule of Sir Oliver Mowat!

Extremely valuable is the Messenger's "Review of A.D. 1902." There is nothing sectional or narrow about it. The whole inhabited globe furnishes its quota of facts, all illumined by the light of the true faith. This review of the events of the past year is a digest of the monthly "Catholic Chronicle," which is an admirably edited department of our New York contemporary.

The late Friedrich Alfred Krupp, of cannon fame, was accused by a socialist paper of unnatural crimes supposed to have been committed by him during his sojourn in the island of Capri. On this subject the "Germania," the great German Catholic organ, writes: "The terrible charges against Krupp emanated from the same foul source in Italy from which so many base slanders against Catholic priests and institutions are poured and eagerly reproduced in Germany by infidel and anti-Catholic papers. But whereas the machinery of Italian officialdom was at once set in motion to show the baselessness of the cruel accusations against Krupp and whereas all German papers expressed their abhorrence of them, nothing is ever done to shield the honor and good name of Catholic priests, nor are the refutations given by Catholic papers taken notice of by the papers that have reproduced the calumnies." The case is pretty much the same all over the world.

Hence the astounding blunders of non-Catholic educated people. The clever and learned Bishop of Fargo

tells of a highly educated lady, one of the leaders of society in an important North Dakota town, who came to visit his beautiful cathedral. After His Lordship had shown her the magnificent set of Stations of the Cross, the finest in any church west of New York, after he had explained to her in his peculiarly picturesque way the meaning of each station, he pointed out to her the beautiful pulpit. On seeing it she exclaimed, in a studied imitation of the fashionable English accent: "How very aesthetic it all is! But isn't it rather a pity that you always preach in Latin?"

"The Golden Jubilee of the Passionist Fathers" is an edifying account, in the January "Catholic World," of the successful labors of the Passionist Order in the United States since 1852. The curious and hitherto unpublished fact is noted therein that the Congregation of St. Paul of the Cross, and not the Congregation of St. Paul (the Apostle), was the first to undertake missions to non-Catholics. "In Boston, for instance, as early as 1862, after a mission to the Catholic people of St. Joseph's parish, a week's mission was given by Father Gaudentius to non-Catholics. Hence, when the Paulist Fathers inaugurated this good work on its present lines, the Passionists were in full sympathy with them."—a very nice way, indeed, of publishing the fact in the Paulist Magazine.

We begin this week the republication, from "The Leader" (San Francisco), of an exhaustive discourse by the celebrated Father Yorke on the reasons why the Irish people should resume the use of their own Irish language. He contends that, if they do not, Ireland will become an English shire.

Clerical News

Rev. Father Guillet, O.M.I., went to St. Roch's hospital last Saturday, threatened with erysipelas, but, thanks to Dr. Devine's energetic treatment, he escaped any serious trouble and returned home last Tuesday.

Rev. Father Page, O.M.I., who has been for some weeks confined to St. Boniface hospital with muscular rheumatism, is progressing slowly.

The Jesuit Brother, who was mentioned in these pages as having arrived here three weeks ago, is named Angers, not Ranger, as it was incorrectly reported at first.

Monsignor Sbarretti, Delegate Apostolic to Canada, arrived in Ottawa last Saturday and was met at the railway station by Archbishop Duhamel.

His Holiness Leo XIII. is reported, even by the cheerful cable liar, to be in excellent health. His 25th anniversary of pontificate occurs on the 20th of next month.

The estate of the late Right Rev. William Vaughan, uncle of Cardinal Vaughan, and Catholic Bishop of the diocese of Plymouth from 1855 to 1902, has been declared at £154. These luxurious prelates!

The "Semaine Religieuse," of Autun, announces that in response to its appeal for Cardinal Perraud, whose stipend was suppressed by M. Combes, a sum sufficient to cover a loss of salary for the next three years was at once subscribed.

Five religious Orders are recommended by the French Government for authorization. They include the Algerian White Fathers and the St. Jean de Dieu Brothers. The White Fathers are not, however, to be allowed to keep their three seminaries in France. The St. Jean de Dieu Brothers provide asylums for the aged, the insane, and the incurable, also seaside sanatoria. Their establishments are accordingly to be authorized, but not their night refuge at Marseilles.

In consequence of the Government having suppressed the salary of Monsignor Touchet, Bishop of Orleans, the "Patriote Orléanois" has opened a subscription list to reimburse the Bishop. The list will not be published, but the names are to be entered in a register, and presented to the Bishop with the amounts received.

The Right Rev. Gulstan F. Roper, Catholic Bishop of Hawaii, died on January 1. He had been ill for some time and was in a dying condition when the Pacific cable was landed at Honolulu.

We regret to have to chronicle the death, last Saturday, at Macleod, of Rev. Louis Marie Lebrét, O.M.I., in his 74th year. He was born at St. Briene, in Brittany, in 1829, entered the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1859, and was ordained priest in 1861. About thirteen years ago he was pastor of St. Mary's, Winnipeg, afterwards he was a missionary at Fort Alexander; lately he was stationed at Macleod. For the past five years his health was seriously impaired. We bespeak the prayers of St. Mary's parishioners for this hard working and zealous priest.—R.I.P.

The Prior of a Benedictine Monastery in S. Illinois, accompanied by one of his monks, arrived at the Archbishop's house last Monday on their way to Mgr. Pascal's diocese, where the Prior has secured three townships for a settlement of Catholic Germans in the Saskatchewan. Already several hundred applications for land in this settlement have been received from the States. The Prior sang High Mass at the Cathedral on Tuesday, the feast of the Epiphany. The next day he and his companion left for Prince Albert.

The 25th anniversary of the priesthood of Rev. Father Jolys, parish priest of St. Pierre Jolys, forty miles southeast of the city, will be celebrated by a great feast on the 14th. His Grace Archbishop Langevin, of St. Boniface, will be present. A handsome new church is in course of construction at this point, which will cost when completed between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

Rev. Fathers Perrault, Defresne and Bastien were the Archbishop's guests on the 8th inst.

A CARD OF THANKS.

The Sisters in charge of St. Boniface Hospital extend heartfelt thanks to the many friends who so kindly remembered the poor patients and made them happy by their generous Christmas and New Years donations.

Messrs. Griffin, P. Gosselin, McDonagh & Shea, G. Galt, J. A. Senecal, W. Drewry, The Hudson's Bay Co., Erzinger, Richard & Co., Mrs. S. A. D. Bertrand, M. Rocan, D. Houle, Dr. Peatman, J. Turenne. Special thanks are also offered to the managers of the three daily papers, the "North West Review," "The Manitoba," "Town Topics" and "The Voice," for their kindness in providing reading matter for their patients.

PALLADIUS ANOTHER NAME FOR PATRICK.

Catholic Standard and Times (Philadelphia).

In the "Irish Ecclesiastical Record," for November, Mr. W. J. D. Croke, who represents The Standard and Times in Rome, presents a careful and most scholarly treatise on the hypothesis of a "Double Personality of St. Patrick." He means a double personality only in the sense that there are two names mentioned in history in order to signalize one person—namely, Palladius and Patrick. This belief is not new, but it has not been hitherto supported by such closely-reasoned arguments, so far as we know, as those advanced by Mr. Croke. His theory is briefly that Palladius was a title of honor commonly conferred on men of great distinction about Patrick's period. It would find an equivalent in the Irish meaning of Patrick—"glorious in battle." It was the habit of the time to change from patronymics to complimentary descriptions on great occasions. Palladius, Mr. Croke conjectures, may have been bestowed thus on "Sochet" or "Succetus," as the future Apostle was known among his own people, wherever these had their "habitat." All those familiar with Irish habit and philology are aware that many Irish names are such equivalents, and many apparently English names in Ireland mean old Celtic patronymics or tribal names. Every Irishman was, under the law of England, in the time of James I. obliged to choose an English surname, under stringent penalty; and in numerous cases the difficulty was evaded by the simple process of rendering the name, when it represented a rank, as judge, or a calling, as smith, into English. Mr. Croke's paper, which is a model of close reasoning, is a valuable contribution to the Patrician controversy.

The Uniate Ruthenians of this province and of the Northwest celebrated Christmas Day last Wednesday, the 7th inst., because they have not yet adopted the Gregorian calendar and are 14 days behind the time. Protestants who sneer at our Galician brethren for this backwardness would do well to remember that, whereas no Protestant country adopted the Gregorian Calendar till after 120 years' hard thinking, and Great Britain allowed 170 years to elapse before it accepted this necessary reform, all Catholic countries showed their love of progress by immediately adopting the new style.

Every year on the feast of the Epiphany the many friends and admirers of Monsignor Ritchot assemble at St. Norbert to wish the venerable prelate a happy feast and a glad new year. His distinctive name is Noel, but as Christmas is too general a festivity, the celebration of his day is put off to Twelfth Night or, as it is familiarly called, "Little Christmas." This year about sixty friends from Winnipeg, St. Boniface and neighboring parishes gathered round his hospitable board and enlivened the banquet with many a felicitous speech. His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface was present, together with the Very Rev. Vicar General Dugas, the Very Rev. Father Louis and Rev. Father Paul of the Trappist Monastery, Rev. Fathers Cherrier, Gendron, Lalonde, Poirier, etc., Mr. Turenne, mayor of St. Boniface, and also Mr. J. Bernier, M. P. P. Mr. Lauzon, Mrs. S. A. D. Bertrand, Mrs. Alfred Leveque, Mr. Lemaire, Mr. and Mrs. Henri de Moissac, Mrs. Pierre d'Eschambault, Mr. Gosselin (of St. Norbert), Mr. Campean, and many others. Mgr. Ritchot welcomed them all with his well known urbanity.