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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5, 1900.

CALENDAR FOR NEXT WEEK.

DECEMBER.

- 9—Second Sunday in Advent.
- 10—Monday—The Holy House of Loreto.
- 11—Tuesday—St. Damasus. Pope.
- 12—Wednesday—Of the octave of the Immaculate Conception. Fast.
- 13—Thursday—St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr.
- 14—Friday—Of the octave. Fast.
- 15—Saturday—Octave of the Immaculate Conception.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Well-meaning men like Principal Grant, who patronize the French-Canadians and hope they will be welded, with the other elements of Canada, into one nation, need to be reminded that they cannot reasonably expect the welding process to mean unity of language and religion. Undoubtedly it is a good thing that the English and French speaking groups, the Catholic and Protestant should, coalesce into one nation; but it must not be at the cost of their respective identity. Fraternal co-operation is what we want, not absorption. How wildly impossible the latter is must be apparent to anyone who reads aright the tokens of vigorous and progressive French-Canadian life overflowing the borders of Quebec. No one, for instance, who has looked into the monumental work lately published on the Diocese of Montreal, with illustrations of its educational and charitable institutions and its energizing lay associations, can for a moment entertain the utopian dream that a country like that could ever exchange its language and religion for any other in the world.

The *Sacred Heart Review* says: "Because 'Romanists' pronounce the name of our oriental possessions 'Philippeens,' a certain Methodist divine covered himself with notoriety and absurdity the other day by saying that hereafter he would pronounce the word 'Philip-pynes.' This Methodist will next be revising the dictionary, and bringing the pronunciation of every word up to the Methodist standard." Our Boston contemporary writes as if there were only one dictionary and only one way of pronouncing English words, when every well-informed person ought to know that dictionaries published in England differ greatly from dictionaries published in the United States. To give the long "i" sound to the last syllable of *Philippines* would not seem absurd to Englishmen, who do not like

the American way of shortening the last syllable in *hostile* and *futile*, and who especially dislike the initial short syllable in *isolate* (issolate). This tendency to shorten the long "i" is a survival of old usage, kept up by the large influx of emigrants from Ireland early in the eighteenth century. That this emigration was very considerable almost two hundred years ago is clearly proved in a review of the *American-Irish Historical Society* that appears in that same number of the *Sacred Heart Review* (Nov. 24), and the emigrants of those days "of virgin soil and boundless opportunity were not street laborers, but farmers, hunters, teachers, soldiers." They brought with them, of course, the Irish and old English way of pronouncing the first three vowels, ah, eh, ee (instead of the modern eh, ee, eye), and as they were more numerous and influential than the eighteenth century emigrants from England, their pronunciation prevailed all over the country. The tendency to distinct utterance made easy the transition from the short "i" of the Latin races to the corresponding long sound represented by "ee." However, the best usage seems to be in favor of pronouncing the last syllable in *Philippines* like the plural of *pin*.

We beg to call attention to the interesting suggestion made in the letter of our correspondent, "Isi-Klay." This pseudonym covers a man of unusual scientific attainments, whose views are therefore well worthy of consideration. His theory that the occurrence of frozen ground at great depths is due to successive landslides of frozen layers is ingenious, and new to us, though it not may be to some of our readers. A more common explanation is this: In seasons of great heat and drought, such as we had last summer, the clay shrinks and cracks. These fissures are often very deep. The autumn rains fill them up with water, which, standing in thin columns, easily freezes down to the bottom of the fissures at the first frost before the snow comes. Then, by conduction, the surrounding clay itself becomes frozen too. Perhaps both these explanations may apply to different circumstances according to the nature and configuration of the land.

In common with several other Catholic editors in America, it seems we made a mistake in saying that Dr. Conan Doyle was a son of Dickey Doyle, whose signature still appears on the frontispiece of *Punch*. It appears Conan is a son of a brother of Dickey's, a very different sort of person from the *Punch* artist. However, Conan's father was a Catholic. The *Milwaukee Catholic Citizen* says there still remains a great difficulty, "who will explain away the educational part of the sad affair? Conan Doyle was educated at the Jesuit college at Stonyhurst." One might just as well ask, Who will explain away the fact that Voltaire was a pupil of the Jesuits, or that Judas was a disciple of Our Lord?

In the November issue of that excellent college journal, *Excelsior*, of St. Francis Xavier's College, Antigonish, we find an interesting letter on "Farm Life in Manitoba," written by a former student of that college. He says: "I was able to go to Portage but once during August. I met Father Viens, the P.P., and a finer or kinder man I have not met. He took a business course in Halifax, taught school in P.E.I., and finally went to Quebec to study for the Church. I think he is German, but he speaks English very well." Father Viens is a French Canadian.

The *Excelsior* correspondent works on a threshing gang, "who sleep in a little house built on wheels, called a 'caboose,' which is hauled around to every farm. It is 8 by 18 feet, with a small stove in the centre, and it is easier for a camel to pass through the

eye of a needle than for a Christian to live in it and be happy." Speaking of the farming people in general, he says: "Religion is at a discount with the great majority and they are ready to turn their jokes on the preachers at every turn." Yet these same preachers never tire of praising the piety of this province.

Humor of the kind which the *Free Press* displayed yesterday morning in its elaborate skit on "Lord Roblin at home" must be very exhausting to the laborious concocter thereof. The pity it elicits for the latter utterly squelches all attempt at a smile.

The editor of the *Catholic Standard and Times* charges us with interfering, like a busybody, in other people's quarrels, because, forsooth, we said (Nov. 21) that he had been worsted in his recent controversy with *The Casinet* on the Cordua affair. Had we adjudged the victory to our Philadelphia friend, he would no doubt have patted us on the back. As it is, he says, politely, of course, "Mind your own business,"—which strongly confirms our view that he was badly beaten, especially as he alleges no reason in his defence and deals only in "glittering and sounding generalities." We need hardly add that a reference to this controversy was exactly in our line of business, which, as our substantive name implies, consists in reviewing publications, more particularly Catholic papers, and one of the most valuable of these is, in spite of its Anglophobia, the *Catholic Standard and Times*.

Oscar Wilde, the aesthete and decadent, has received and co-operated with the grace of God and has died a Catholic. Doubtless the moral courage with which he endured the awful humiliation of several years' imprisonment for immorality prepared him for this undeserved and infinitely valuable grace. Meanwhile his former fashionable associates, not having yet been found out, keep proudly dancing onward into eternal death.

The Hon. J. C. Patterson, late Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, who returned yesterday to his old home in the east, deserves the warmest gratitude of Catholics. No sooner had he been appointed the Queen's representative in this province than he, of his own accord, before any such thing had been suggested to him, donated two gold medals and one silver medal to St. Boniface College, two silver medals and one bronze medal to St. Mary's Academy. He continued this yearly gift during the five years of his term, and he was always ready to give medals to any Catholic institution that might desire them. Although himself an Anglican, he manifested a special preference for Catholic education, the benefits of which he had been careful to secure for his sons and daughters. He was particularly friendly to the Sisters of Jesus and Mary, whom he had known at Windsor, where his daughters were their pupils.

If it be true, as a telegraphic rumor says this morning, that Viscount Halifax, President of the English Church Union, is about to become a Catholic, this will be but the consistent evolution of a singularly sincere and noble character.

The report came from Ottawa yesterday that His Grace Archbishop Duhamel is to be created Cardinal. Apart from the personal merits of the prelate himself, this would be a fitting recognition of his status as the senior Archbishop of Canada and the ecclesiastical head of the Capital See. It is not the first time the suggestion has been thrown out as a feeler.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

The net result of the municipal nominations yesterday is that there is to be a contest for the mayoralty and for the aldermanic seat in each ward of the city. For the office of chief magistrate the citizens may choose between ex-Mayor Wilson and ex-Aldermen Arbuthnot and Ross. This is practically what we predicted in our last issue and further consideration has only confirmed the opinion we have already expressed that, "taking one consideration with another," Mr. Arbuthnot is the best of the three, and, in fact, would make a worthy mayor of the city at this juncture in our history. We do not think there is any doubt of his election. Ex-Ald. Ross has lost ground daily since he was first spoken of for the position, and whilst he will probably make a good run, the indications are that he has not a sufficient hold on

the confidence of the electors to stand any chance of winning in the present contest. Ex-Mayor Wilson will probably not poll anything like the vote he got at the last election, and we shall not be at all surprised if Mr. Arbuthnot receives as many votes as his two opponents combined. In ward one the aldermanic candidates are Messrs. B. E. Chaffey and J. R. Spear. The former can point to a previous very creditable record as alderman and should easily defeat his opponent, who is an unknown quantity to most citizens. Messrs. John Russell and D. Smith are the candidates in ward two. We hope that the latter will be elected, as his experience in public works would be particularly valuable to the city just now. In ward three R. R. Sutherland is opposed by J. G. Latimer and R. Snook; but, if the citizens appreciate faithful service, he should be again sent back to the aldermanic board by a good majority. In ward four J. G. Harvey is once more appealing to the electors, but there are indications that his clever opponent, R. A. Bonnar, will defeat him, with the working man's candidate, John Wallace, a good second. The contest in ward five has narrowed down to D. D. Wood and D. Sinclair. This promises to be a close contest. In our opinion Mr. Sinclair should be the choice, but his opponent is a popular man and has made a thorough canvass of the ward and will in all probability win out. There seems to be little doubt that J. W. Cockburn will be the choice of ward five's electors, although Joseph Carman and B. Nicholson may divide up the vote fairly evenly with him. Take it all in all, whilst the best men in the city have not been nominated, we think the candidates are fairly representative of the average business men of our community, and as good, at any rate, as we can expect to get under present circumstances. The duty of all citizens is to vote for the men who they honestly believe are best capable of efficiently administering the affairs of the city, and, when the new council is elected, to give them a fair chance to show what they can do.

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Votes and Influence
For—

MAYOR

YOUR VOTE

AND INFLUENCE IS REQUESTED FOR

John Arbuthnot

FOR

MAYOR.

Mayorality 1901

At the request of hundreds of my friends, I am seeking re-election for another term.
My record for the past year as Mayor is now before you, and on that record I solicit your
Votes and Influence
to place me at the head of the polls on December 11.

HORACE WILSON

WARD ONE

Aldermanic Election

At the request of a number of Rate-payers, I have decided to stand for election as alderman for WARD ONE, and would respectfully ask the electors of that ward to give me their support.

B. E. CHAFFEY.

WARD 2

School Trustee

I again have the pleasure of soliciting your VOTE and INFLUENCE to elect me your representative on the School Board.

J. J. ROBERTS.

WARD 4

I respectfully solicit the support of the electors of WARD 4, for Alderman.

R. A. BONNAR

Ward 5

D. D. WOOD

Requests the votes of the electors of WARD 5 in the ensuing election for Alderman,

W. JORDAN,

TELEPHONE 750.
Fort St., cor. Portage Ave.

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