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## TCEEDAY, FEDRDARY 6, 1907

## CURRENT CONMENT

When non-Catholic editors wish to avoid gross blunders in Catholic maters, the wisest course is to question an intelli. gent Catholic layman or a priest Had the Free
Saturday it would um here pat the heading
der" to the news that the Redemptorists were apdying for incorporation in Canada. sounds funny to Catholics when they rad of "The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer" as a new religious order. This learned and zealons body was fonnded 168 years ago, in 1732, at the very time when LaVerandrye discoreted this Red River country. It is now one of the most numerous religious orders in the world, and has been es-
tablished in Canada for many years past. "The Redemptor ists." as they are commonly called, have a llourishing little commanity at Brandon.
They were founded by St. Alphonsus Liguoni, whose first companion has lately been declared Venerable. The news in fact has recently come to us from Rome of the introduction of the cause of beatification of Cesare Sportelli, who was, like St. Alphonsus, a barrister. At 32 years of age he left the bar and retired with Dom Liguori to the solitude of Sala. John Mazzini and others who had joined
the Saint, left him b cause they wished to devote themselves to education. The Venerable Cesare Sportelli and the lay brother Vito Curzio were the only ones that remained faithfol to the great founder in that crisis of his early life. Thus Sportell was really the first permanent companiou of St. Alphonsus. He became a priest and a mission ary, and died April 19, 1750.

Many of our readers have been commenting on the weakness of Cardinal Vaughan's letter in defence of the war, which we reprinted in our issue of Jan-
uary 23 . Weakness seems the inevitable result of trying to justify this war. Even Mr. Geoffrey Drage, M. P, with all the resources of his talent and
loyalty, had to deal largely in platitudes. The nearest approach to anything like what lawyers would call "a good
case" is mede by Mr. d'Hotman wricige to Pletermaritzourg, Paris. He asserts that the Afrikander Bond was a secret smiety having for its object the werthsow of British supremacy order to precipitate matters the Transvaai five years ago com menced to worry the Uitlanders If we may judge by the ponder osity of his son's loyal letter, which The Tablet triumphantly prints in the original French Judge d'Hotman must be afflict ed with a mind utterly devoid of suppleness and therefore incapable of seeing both sides of a question: for his son has th rare faculty of writing ponder ously in that lightest and airies of epistolary media, the French ianguage, and we may safely say: "Tel fils, tel père."

We gather from the Inland Revenue report just issued at Ottawa that Electric Lighi Meters are still in their infancy so far as accuracy goes of 199 presented for inspection in sherbrooke, only 14 or about 7 Quebec division only 34 out 0 339 or about 10 per cent. were correct; Toronto had 70 out o i28, or about 11 per cent. correct The buat showing is in th Hamilton division where 220
on of 350 , or almost 62 per ent, were correct. Though one would hardly expect it of the stand city by the eastern sea the banner division for fast meters is Halifax. where 114 out of 254 or about 45 per cent., worked 2 per cent., ran too slow. How ever, it is consoling to know that all these errors fell within the limits of inaceuracy tolerated by law.

Hysterical as are the wailings of the English press over the casualtios in the South African battles, history shows that the percentages of the losses hare not been very great as compared with other wars. So far the British loss has seldom risen over 8 per cent., whereas in th
fierce battles of the American Civil War the percentage of lose on both sides approached iu some instances one-half the total strength of the contending armies. The Federal loss at bout 50 re as estimas figure is given for the Confeder ate loss at Gaines Mill, and in about fifty other battles of the same Rebellion the percentage ranged between 16 and 18 per ent. In the famous charge of he Light Brigade at Balaklara the loss was 37 per cent., and at
Metz the Gardeschitzenen lost 46 per cent. Though the propor tionate loss of officers in the earlier South African battles was really appalling, the British losing about one officer to six men, yet there have been
previous instances of rery numerous casualties among officers. Thus at Spicheren, in he Franco-German war the Germans lost 223 officers and
$4,871 \mathrm{men}$, and at the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo, in the Peninsu lar war, the British loss in one desperate charge was 90 officers and $1,200 \mathrm{men}$.
We beg to direct our readers'
interest to Farmers." The Cana d:an Catholic Emigration Society has long been well known in Canada under the name of the Southwark Catholic Emigration Society; but it has, within the last year, been amalgamated with another, under the presi dency of His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan. It has three houses in Canada: a distributing home fo boys at Ottawa, a home for young servant girls in Montreal, and a farm for older boys a Makinak, Manitoba. The society has about six hundred boys in the country, placed for the most part in Ontario. These, with very few exceptions, are doing well and giving satisfaction to their employers. Miss Procte and Miss Urquhart, who are th chief organizers of the Society in Canada, under the direction of the Rer. Edward St Joh residing in England, were her last snmmer and had the hono of meeting His Grace the Arch bishop, who gave them grea encouragement and expressed his interest in their projec exteuding their work westward. This is an excellen opportunity for farmers wh want to secure strong lads of 1 or 18 for regular and continuous farm work.

Mr. E L. Fayollat, of St Clande, writes to us protesting against what we said, in ou is sue of January 2, about "a bad lot of Fruchmen from France, and hoping that we will retract this expression. Considering hat his letter is dated January 24, it strikes us, in the firsı lace, that he is rather behiud the age in promptness of repartee Secondly, we invite him to re rad with us the whole sentence There is nothing like the con text to clear up a text, and this
is the more necessary in this is the more necessary in this case as Mr. Fayollat evidently never saw our paper but has simply been put up to this by "L'Echo de Manitoba," which asked us to explain the exac bearing of that phrase. Wha majority of the French polls were in favor of the Conserva tive candidate, and in those
places where the vote went places where the vote went
Liberal this was either because the voters were a bad lot of Frenchmen from France, very different in religions training and national aspirations from French Canadians, or becanse the French voters were deceived by the absurd promises of Mr Rochon." It will be observed that we divided the French Liberal roters into two classes one, "a bad lot," and the other dupes of Mr. Rochon. Hence hough Mr. Fayollat boasts of buing the Liberal party at the poll of St. Claude, he need not belong the "bad lot," he may be, lo From what we hear of St. Claude weare inclined to think that the dupes were much more
numerous than the "bad lot." For the majority of the Frenchmen from France at St. Claude have recently given substantia proof of their good disposition
towards the Catholic Church

Dr. St. George Mivart ha , "The Time which he deprecates being not seem true to the realities of hold responsible for the opinions like to hear of a town of 80,000 of others which he merely quot- inhabitants without a single ed. The editor of the Tablet, Oatholic church in the poor

Mr. J. Snead Cox, replies, also in "The Times," and shows that leading Protestant newspapers understood Mr. Mirart as holding those opinions himseli. In "The Tablet" the same editor pins the slippery Doctor down oo "the essential point-and one which no amount of pleading can be allowed to obscure,' which "is not whether Dr Mivart personally denies the doctrines of the Virgin Birth and perpetual Virginity, but whether he personally mainains that a denial of themwhether by himself or by others, it matters nothing)-i compatible with Catholic faith either now or at any future time

Mr. Woolley left Wimipeg yesterday a disappointed man. So were those who invited him to lecture here. He was heralded as the greatest temperance lecturer in America, if not in the whole world, and when he spoke in hali or church, he shocked the best Protestants by the irreverence and flippancy with which he handled. in a spirit of well-meant but ill-bred humor, the most sacred subjects. His lectures were utterly devoid of great ideas. As one clergyman wrote to the Free Press, they ould not be called temperame lectares at all. There was no entral thonght, no siquence of argument or illustration. They were merely a disjointed series of questionable jokes. This is one more proof that a public speaker may have a first class reputation in the United States and be a failure in Canada.

ANOTHER OF SHELDON'S BOOKS.

We have lately receired from he Poole Publishing Company Toronto, a copy of "The Crucifixion of Phillip Strong," by Charles M. Sheldon, the now well known author of "In His Steps." The story of Phillip Strong is a tragedy full of rigor and pathos. The hero strives to follow Christ through the haze of Protestant Christianity, and of course the result is disastrous Although the only allusion to Catholics is a kindly one, yet the author unconsciously betrays the awkward unreality of his point of view, when he makes the wife of Phillip Strong say "There are other things that are Christian which the Church of Christ on earth does not do, Phillip." The sereue ignorance which prompts a nameless sect to ignore the larger half of Christendom and call itself and the unrelated fragments of the other sects "the Church of Christ ou earth" is deserving of all pity. Unwittingly also the book becomes a revelation of the
uncharity and iutense woridli. ness of apparently pious Protesants. Phillip's brave but ineffectual fight to get a negro accepted as a member of his church is the sort of thing that the most indifferent Catholics would never dream of
The scene is laid in Milton, a town of 80,000 inhabitants, and we are told there was not a single church in the poorer print elsewhere, headed "O
district. But Milton-another anomaly-had no Catholic church at all, and the seven Protestant churches were all in one fashionable street.
As illustrating the difference betweea Protestant aud Catholic standards of action, we may mention what happened when we related to some Catholio young men Phillip's noble offe to the church trustees. Feeling that his salary of $\$ 2,000$ a year was too much for a fervant minister with on!y a wife and no children, he asked the tras tees to apply one half of his salary to the puor of the fown "Why didn't he give it away himself to the poor withont bothering the trustees?" said one of our Caiholic hearers and all the others chimed in to the same effect. There you have the Catholic impulse-to go and do it yourself wihhout any publio fuss-as opposed to the Prote tant tendency-io think, speak and act in committees or batal ions. And facts prove that the Catholic is the more allective way. An ounce of example is worth a ton of corporate resolu tions. The author catche glimpses of this truth, as when he nakes Phillip say: "The

