

LETTER TO THE FREE PRESS
BY JOHN O'DONOHUE.

To the Editor of the Free Press.
"Sir,—I notice by the city papers that there has been a Catholic deputation waiting on our provincial Premier demanding some concessions in regard to our School Act, and having failed with Mr. Roblin, they purpose now waiting on the Federal Government. The trip to Roblin was only a blind, the real intention being to embarrass Laurier and his Government. Why did not the Catholics form in a body of 500 and march to the government buildings as they did when the Greenway Government was in power, the procession being headed by federal civil servants? I can tell you the reason. It is because those same leaders in the school question agitation had as their main purpose the embarrassing of the Liberals in power, their desire for better terms for the Catholic schools being only a pretence.
"I can assure you and the people of Manitoba that the vast majority of the Catholics would be glad if the Catholic committee had accepted the very liberal terms offered Catholics by the city school board when they met recently. But that would not serve the political schemes of the wire-pullers of this city. I wonder if any one could point out one Liberal vote ever cast by any one of the Catholic deputation named to go to Ottawa to interview the Dominion Government. I think not. Why, we find that at the present time, and since this little agitation started, His Grace of St. Boniface is at Montreal pulling the Langevin Tory strings, and all for political purposes.

"JOHN O'DONOHUE."
Winnipeg, July 4.

The Free Press has many of the Catholics of both Winnipeg and the province at large, on its subscribers list. We therefore had expected that it would have some consideration for the feelings of those Catholic readers and spare them the humiliation of reading such a low and contemptible squib as appeared in its columns under the signature of John O'Donohue.

Mr. John O'Donohue, who calls himself a Catholic, has always complaisantly served as a tool to do the dirty work of all the enemies of our school rights in Manitoba. We had hoped, however, that in so doing he would exercise a little decency, not to say reverence, towards his ecclesiastical superior. We had hoped also that the Free Press, which boasts of being a great leader in this country, would not lend itself as a medium to Mr. O'Donohue for the spreading of his slanderous attacks on our loved Archbishop. Mr. O'Donohue, in his letter dated the 4th inst., charges the Catholics in the school question agitation with having as "their main purpose the embarrassing of the Liberals in power, their desire for better terms for the Catholic schools being only a pretence." And then he concludes: "Why, we find that at the present time, and since this little agitation started, His Grace of St. Boniface is at Montreal pulling the Langevin Tory strings, and all for political purposes." The fact is that, at the time Mr. O'Donohue was writing his letter, His Grace was on his way home, which he reached on Saturday, the 6th. Too bad! poor sir! your shot this time again falls short of its aim. A little more thoughtfulness might have least have left some color to your slanderous attacks; but, as it is, we can only find in you the old John O'Donohue. And you are not a bit more happy in your attempt to throw mud at the Catholics of Winnipeg regarding their recent movement in the Manitoba School question.

Had Mr. O'Donohue attended the mass meeting of the Catholics of Winnipeg he would have found that politics had carefully been eliminated from all the proceedings of the meeting. We want justice, we seek redress, nothing else. We went first, acting upon constitutional principles, to the Honorable the Premier of Manitoba. Whether Mr. Roblin is or is not debarred by the school settlement of 1897 from granting our just demands we do not wish to discuss just now; but it is clear to all unbiased minds that the only course of action for us to follow at present is to go to Ottawa and demand that the judg-

ment of the Privy Council be carried out. This we are determined to do, for we cannot endure any longer the intolerable state of persecution under which we labor, notwithstanding Mr. O'Donohue's ridiculous protest in favor of the Winnipeg school board's attitude; and we beg of all righteous citizens to consider the question now at issue on its own constitutional merits, and not to make it another football for politicians to play with, as Mr. O'Donohue is actually trying to do.

We reproduce above Mr. O'Donohue's letter as a sample of the absurdities to which political bias may lead.

Another letter has been published of the same stamp as that of Mr. O'Donohue's, dated the 8th, from Fannystelle, and signed "Farmer." We will ignore it entirely.

WINNIPEG FAIR

There has always been a great rush of citizens from the States on the border to visit the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition. This year so many have bought land and otherwise identified themselves with the interests of the great Canadian West, that the number is expected to be larger than ever, especially as many will doubtless take advantage of the occasion to become practically acquainted with the country about which so much has been said and written during the past few years.

The recent visit of the agricultural editors from the United States will doubtless be productive of lasting good to the Canadian Northwest. These gentlemen have had an opportunity of seeing for themselves the country about which so much has been said and written and the Canadian Northwest is a "good wine which needs no bush." Manitoba and the Northwest Territories speak for themselves, and the altogether satisfactory results of the past three years require no comment. Winnipeg is the centre of this sphere of great prosperity, and the Winnipeg Industrial Fair has done more than any other factor to bring to the notice of the world

at large the really wondrous possibilities for everyone who is willing by the might of his own right hand to make a more than comfortable living, if not a modest fortune. Freedom breathes in the air and equal rights for all and Manitoba and the Canadian West are coming to be more and more recognized as the homes of the brave and the free.

Merchants, bankers and hotel-keepers are making preparations to decorate and illuminate their various places of business during Fair week. A larger crowd than ever is expected to attend the exhibition, and if fine weather is the order of the day, there is no doubt but that great business will be done in Manitoba's capital. The city council are making arrangements for the decoration and illumination of the city hall and square, and already workmen are busy encircling the Volunteer's Monument with strings of colored lights, forming a blaze of color which will be a thing of beauty for all.

DUBLIN CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY.

At the annual meeting of the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland, it was reported that since the last meeting held in June, 1902, over 530,000 books had been despatched, and within the same space of time 81 new branches were registered in connection with the Catholic churches throughout Ireland. The business connections formed in the United States and in the British colonies had been further developed, about 50,000 publications having been sent to Australia and 5,000 to America during the past year. New publications printed during the 12 months brought up the total number issued to 157. General gratification was expressed at the success of the society, and the officers and council were warmly thanked for their efforts. Archbishop Healy was again elected president, and a widely representative committee was chosen to direct the affairs of the society for the next 12 months.

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