



A LETTER FROM THE CREE INDIAN MISSIONARY

Father Charlebois, O.M.I., of Duck Lake, Sask., N.W.T., writes: The other day we had a great time when some boxes arrived. The sisters and I enjoyed opening them and taking out the garments. "Oh, isn't this fine?" they would say, "this will just suit this boy or girl."

He is instructing other Indians and doing all he can to bring them into the Faith, as he did for his own relatives. He is very poor, but he says they are all happy in their hearts since they became Catholics.

Dear friends, I wish you could have seen their joy and the gratitude of all others when they get something to cover their poor bodies. Many a prayer they send up to the good God who has touched the hearts of those kind people who sent me this clothing.

Christmas eve we had a grand midnight Mass. The Indians came hundreds of miles to assist at it and to receive Holy Communion. I was in the confessional from 1.30 p.m. until 12.30 a.m., and yet I could not hear all.

I want to see a poor Indian who is dying of consumption. He was lying on a bare dirt floor, in his wretched tepee, only a thin blanket covering him. I gave him the Sacraments and when I went back to my mission I sent him a little comfort out of the box of clothing.

Rev. Father Paquette, O.M.I., who died last May of hardship and starvation, established this orphan asylum and industrial school. His first shelter for himself and the children was a couple of tents. The Indians in the woods run after the priest, begging him to take their children with him to the school.

Last week I visited my Indians in Batoche Reserve. I brought with me a lot of old clothing for a poor family there. There is an old man, over 80 years old, an old woman, 90 years old, another old woman, a girl and one little boy. I noticed especially the girl. She had on only a ragged calico dress, no shirt, in fact nothing else.

It is patent, in fact, that "a free Church in a free State" is by no means contemplated by the Radicals and Socialists who control the present Chamber of Deputies, though they have taken measures to relieve the treasury of the burden of supporting religion in any guise.

I got up at three or four in the morning to keep the wood fire burning to heat the school. I must be frank because I cannot afford to pay a man to do this work. There is a debt of \$20,000 on the asylum and I have a hard time trying to pay off the interest alone.

These devoted missionaries leave homes of comfort and refinement to fight for the souls of Indians driven by the white man into a land of misery. If the place were even worse than it is, the Oblates would still follow them, for their work is "the evangelization of the poorest and the most ignorant."

WHAT SEPARATION MEANS.

Count De Mun Shows the Nature of the Attack Upon the Church.

(The following speech, which we translate from the French, was delivered by Count Albert de Mun at a banquet given on December 19, by the members of the Congress of the Popular Liberal Movement, a French Catholic organization which is doing very effective work among the wage workers of France.)

Gentlemen,—Though the state of my health forbids me making public addresses, I cannot remain silent today. The time has come when each one should openly assume his share of the common responsibility.

A Secular View of Divorce of Church and State in France.

(From the New York Sun.) The position of Catholicism in France hereafter will by no means be analogous to that occupied by that religion in the United States, where the national government exercises no supervision over any form of worship.

A strange incident occurred at Morrice, Mich., while Rev. Esther Welsh was conducting farwell mission service at St. Mary's Church last Sunday when a dove flew down from the gallery, and after walking the chancel rail, flew up and alighted on the reverend Father's head, where it remained for an instant and then flew away.

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A LITERARY CABINET.

Personnel of the New British Liberal Administration.

"British Cabinets seem to be composed more and more of men who write," notes the editor of "By the Way," in the Dublin Freeman.

In the present cabinet there is Mr. John Morley, one of the leading literary men of the present generation, with almost a dozen important critical and historical books to his credit.

Persecution is the sowing of the seeds of life. For this reason, though it be rash to rejoice at persecution, we ought to face it unflinchingly. Perhaps persecution is necessary in these times that have become accustomed to heroic acts.

AN HONEST WITNESS.

Tribute to Catholic Missionaries by a Rationalist Writer.

The well known Dutch historian, M. Lohmann, a rationalist writer, gives in the Knechtsteden Echo the following high commendation of the Catholic missions:

"At the sight of the immense blessings derived from the Catholic orders and missionaries it is impossible not to be filled with genuine and frank respect and esteem. The Roman Catholic creed continues to possess a power which, sooner or later, must carry off a decisive victory of Protestantism."

"I know this assertion will bring upon me a hurricane of indignation from my compatriots, still I do not fear to say it, again: Modern Protestantism will end in a mere hollow sound. I have had opportunities of coming to know, in the West Indies and in the East Indies and in various countries of Europe, the exemplary life of the religious and missionaries of the Catholic Church and of witnessing the unsparring charity of the nuns in the schoolrooms and the hospital wards."

"Many of our people were in the habit, before visiting those countries, of calumniating the Catholics, either through ignorance or through human respect, but after seeing the wonders of the Catholic apostleship among the lepers and the poor, despised blacks, those same people, in my hearing, avowed with shame that Catholic charity and self-sacrifice surpassed in heroism everything imaginable in that respect, holding a unique place in the world and in history."

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Vertical text on the left margin containing various advertisements and notices.