

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

(Continued from page 1.)

and influence of Italy both at home and abroad is being sadly diminished by the effect the treatment to which His Holiness is subjected is having on the minds of honest men in every land. There is constant proof being given that abroad the conduct of the Italian Government is regarded by Protestants as evidence of incapacity, and amongst Catholics has aroused a strong feeling of resentment, so that close observers of the state of affairs in that country have recently stated that in their opinion the church there from this time on will grow stronger and healthier until Europe shall see the propriety of again giving freedom and independence to the Vatican, who is the only possible centre of peace and unity in the Christian world. In other parts of Europe we have recently seen developments which must give us satisfaction and help to strengthen our conviction that brighter days are in store for the faithful there. In Germany the growth of a better feeling towards the church and of a desire to work in harmony with the Vatican has been evinced in the repeal of the laws under which the Jesuits are excluded from the country. In France there is manifestly a desire on the part of the Government that better relations should exist between it and the Holy Father; in fact there is strong evidence of a new spirit breathing over France which has been shown lately in the speeches of several of the leading politicians who express themselves heartily in favor of a policy of moderation and conciliation. In Great Britain and on this continent we can fairly say that taking everything into consideration the prospect is encouraging. It is true that just here in Manitoba and the Northwest we are suffering from the fact that we have been robbed of some of our dearest rights, but in many respects we are making substantial progress, and although we have to face much opposition from certain fanatics we have only to remain true to ourselves and our principles to bring about an exemplification of the truth of the proverb, "Justice must prevail in the long run."

Now, Mr. President and Brothers, to sum up this very imperfect paper, I think we may claim that despite false historians and prejudiced critics we have in the past of our church, in its present position in the world, and in the probabilities of the future, good reason for saying that the promise our Divine Lord made to the infant church has been abundantly realized in the times that have gone by, and that the realization is being carried on in the age in which we live. Although at times the struggle against the powers of the world may seem a very hard one, although difficulties may beset us which it will require all our devotedness to overcome, let us never think of despair. The faith amongst our people is undoubtedly as actual and as powerful as it ever was, heresy and doubt may proclaim themselves loudly from the housetops, but every word of contradiction there will be a deepening of the fervor of the believers, and they will hold their faith with a love more tenacious than ever. A portion of the press may be against us, but we can use the press ourselves. The Government may oppress us and may refuse us our just rights, but we can appeal to our friends to come to our assistance, and we must be borne in mind that it is the people who have the making and unmaking of governments. If everything else fails us, there is still the way of martyrdom, and knowing that in the early ages the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the church, we will resolve to be ready to make any sacrifice that the interests of our holy religion demands. Let our confidence be strengthened by the assurance that come what may, and in spite of appearances God will somehow win; that if we are God and faithful we shall win the educational battle; that we shall win in bringing back the misguided millions of our fellow creatures; that we shall win the fight over revealed religion, and without denying the explanations of science shall hold and win over millions of others to join us in bearing witness to the fact that the scriptures are the very word of God; and we shall win in the fight for the Vicar of Christ. Let none of us be half-hearted in this. Let us hold fast to the necessity of the independence of our Holy Father; let us try to raise such a feeling throughout the world that the Catholics of Europe will be able to force the powers there to take this matter up, knowing that as soon as that is done the injustice will be remedied; but above all let us place the most implicit reliance in the promise of our Lord, and be for ever grateful that he has made us members of that church which alone possesses, enjoys, and shows forth all the four marks of God's true church as pointed out in the scriptures and declared in the Nicene creed in the words:—"I believe One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church."

Mr. Russell took his seat amidst loud applause during which Rev. Father O'Dwyer rose and highly complimented him on the lecture and moved that he be tendered a hearty vote of thanks for same. Dr. J. K. Barrett in a few congratulatory remarks seconded, and the motion was carried with enthusiasm.

ST. BONIFACE HOSPITAL FORMALLY OPENED AND BLESSED ON THURSDAY.

By Very Rev. Father, Soullier Superior-General of the Oblates—Descriptive Details of the New Wing—Everything Complete.

By special invitation, a representative of the Nor-Wester called at St. Boniface Hospital on Thursday last where one of the sisters in charge met him and conducted him through the building, visiting and inspecting every room and department. The new wing to the hospital having been completed it was decided to have the formal opening on Thursday, Arbor Day, so that the public might have an opportunity of judging for themselves as to the thorough fitness of the institution. Unfortunately, in the early morning the rain looked threatening, and at times ran came down, which no doubt prevented many from attending who would otherwise have been present. Long before 10 o'clock, the hour at which the blessing was to take place, visitors and friends began to flock in, so

that by the time the several clerics were vested in their priestly robes, quite a goodly crowd had collected. The presence of that distinguished person, Very Rev. Father Soullier, Superior-General of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, added dignity to the services. Sharp at 10 o'clock, Father Soullier, robed in cope and the other usual sacerdotal vestments, and accompanied by the many clerics of St. Boniface and Winnipeg, proceeded to bless the new building. This ritualistic service is most solemn in the Catholic church and impresses even those who do not belong to that creed, with the significance of its intent. Passing from room to room, chanting aloud the prescribed prayers and psalms, all of which were touchingly responded to, the officiating priest invoked divine aid and blessing from the Almighty, for this institution. Each room was sprinkled with holy water, according to the specific rubrics of the Catholic church. After making a visit to every part of the new wing the procession came slowly back to the handsome chapel—to be described later—and there resumed the prayers appropriate to the occasion. The solemn Litany of the Saints was sung and other ceremonies performed.

This finished, Father Soullier commenced the celebration of mass at once, during which a choir of sweet voices sang. After the consecration Miss Barrett rendered one of her finest, "O Salutaris," much to the delight of all. Quite a number of the patients attended the mass from an adjoining room. Thus were concluded the morning services of the blessing and dedication of the hospital. Among the priests present were Very Rev. Father Soullier, Rev. Fathers Antonin Langevin, Drummond, Messier, Cloutier, Accorsini, Cherrier, Blais, Brother George, O.M.I., and Mr. Brindamour, ecclesiastical student. In the afternoon, at 4 o'clock, the dedication services were resumed. By this time the weather proved more propitious, and hundreds took advantage of the beautiful day to visit to hospital. There was no distinction whatever between creeds—Protestant and Catholic united in the services. His Lordship, Bishop Lemmens of Vancouver and Alaska, officiated at the Pontifical benediction. As announced, Miss Barrett and Mr. Arnold, from St. Mary's choir, were to sing Ave Maria which resounded through the corridors of the hospital with wonderful effect. Miss Barrett's "O Salutaris" was another of that talented singer's choice efforts. It delighted all who heard it. The "Tantum Ergo" was sung by the two voices together and was charming. After the benediction, hundreds thronged through the halls, passing in and from room to room, each one expressing his or her appreciation of the neatness and get-up of the whole.

The St. Boniface hospital, together with the new wing attached thereto, forms as model an institution as may be found anywhere. An air of cleanliness, surpasses other hospitals, containing, as it does, every known device which is conducive to the patient's comfort and rest. The entrance proper faces directly south and is intended principally for the students, as also for the reception of the sick. At the back of the building is the stairway leading to the left, the Industrial school almost in front and an immense tract of woody land on the right. Immediately inside the door is a small but neat waiting room; to the left is a wide hallway connecting the old building with the new addition. As you go along this passage, the first of the three public wards. The Sister requested the reporter to examine everything minutely; which he did. This room is very large, containing 24 beds combined for each bed. The ceiling is high; light is well provided for by numerous windows, extensive closed wardrobes contain the clothing of the patients; a well equipped bath room adjoins, as does also a small compartment for a physician. The beds are neat and trim, and in every particular the desires of the most fastidious are satisfied. Fronting on the Red River side is a smoking room, connecting with the ward, but in such a way that not even the odor of the tobacco can reach the interior of the ward. Directly over this, on the second and third storeys, are two other wards, that on the second storey being for females, all corresponding exactly with the first.

On the opposite of the hall is the hospital chapel, a plain but surely neat and fitting place of worship. The ceiling of this extends all the way to that of the second storey and by means of windows at the top, patients are enabled to assist at the services without leaving their rooms. There is a choir enclosure arranged overhead, pews are placed outside the sanctuary rails, the altar is constructed of oak and the entire aspect bespeaks careful thought. Farther on to the right of the hallway is a commodious pantry; opposite this is the door leading to the elevator shaft. The elevator runs from top to bottom of the building, is large enough for a bed to be rolled in upon it, and at the same time to give standing room to two attendants. Thus patients are carried to any of the wards, or to the operating room with as little shuffling-up as possible. Nor must it be lost of the well stocked dispensary on the first floor. This important adjunct is well carried for, and thoroughly equipped with every necessary drug. It is much more commodious than the former one. At present owing to the haste with which everything was pushed to completion, it does not perhaps present as extensive an aspect as it will do later. Nevertheless nothing is wanting in its details.

The stairways leading from one floor to another are wide and massive, constructed of oak and well polished. On the second storey are the private wards. It is hard to credit the fact that rooms intended and provided for patients could be so handsomely furnished as these. Each room has been donated by some special friend or friends, whose names will be given in the public at some latter day. One room in particular is charming, so much so that one gentleman asked the Sister in charge if he could not use it whenever he got sick; to which the Sister replied, "Yes if you have 'Mme.' affixed to your name, as the room is intended for ladies' use." It would be difficult to describe accurately the attractions of these private apartments. Each one presents something pleasing, and when it is considered that for the extremely moderate charge of one dollar a day, a moderate charge of the sole use of one patient can have the sole use of one of those beautiful chambers, together with the best medical skill, the services of trained nurses, and medicine and food,

it is hard to refrain from expressing one's approbation of such an institution. The public ward for females is divided into three compartments, wherein are placed those suffering from kindred diseases. This is done to facilitate the surgical work of the physicians. On the third floor of the building is the operating room. Nothing could be better fitted up than this. A well-arranged theatre for students rises in tiers from the operating table, till in the back the ceiling is well nigh reached. Fully two hundred students can be seated here. Up to the present forty have attended the surgical operations, but it is now expected that many more will take advantage of the benefits offered. All the paraphernalia of the dissecting room are here found: hot and cold water is supplied in abundance through large pipes; pails, dishes, tubs, etc., are deftly arranged, ready for use. This room is adjoined by another connecting with the elevator, and contains a bed, on which the patient is placed when chloroform is being administered. A smaller compartment is found on the opposite side, intended for a bed chamber for the patient, whenever, in the physician's estimation he is to be removed farther.

The fourth floor is devoted entirely to sleeping quarters for the Sisters and others regular inmates of the hospital. Probably the most important factor in the entire building is the heavy iron partitions which will be so constructed on every floor as to render the spread of fire across the halls a practical impossibility. There is abundance of water supplied from an adjoining well; this is pumped into a reservoir on the top storey, whence it is distributed all through the edifice. The architect and contractor of the new wing was Mr. Senecal who certainly deserves praise for the perfection in which he has left his work. Mr. Toupin was forman, Messrs. Bourke and Parent did the painting, and Mr. Senecal the plastering. An air of cleanliness, comfort and neatness prevailed throughout. The dim and dingy aspect usually so prevalent in hospitals is wanting here. Brightness reigns in the place, on the faces of the patients and inmates. St. Boniface hospital is open to all, regardless of race or creed; all that is required is a certificate of a provincial physician; patients are even allowed to have

their own doctors, free of charge. Such an institution as this reflects credit on the city and on the province. Nor must this account be concluded without mentioning the merits of the good Sisters of Charity, who have charge of the hospital. Claiming for their own use only one room for sleeping purposes, and another smaller one for a recreation parlor, the Sisters of Charity devote their entire life to the welfare of the sick. They are indefatigable in their efforts, untiring in their zeal for the comforts of those under their care. Skilled nurses, it is true, administer to the wants of the invalids, but the Sisters are ever present to superintend every detail. No more noble calling in life presents itself to man or woman than this. Many of those good women have known happy homes, have seen the comforts and tasted the luxuries of life, yet voluntarily do they sacrifice their all for God and suffering humanity. —Nor-Wester.

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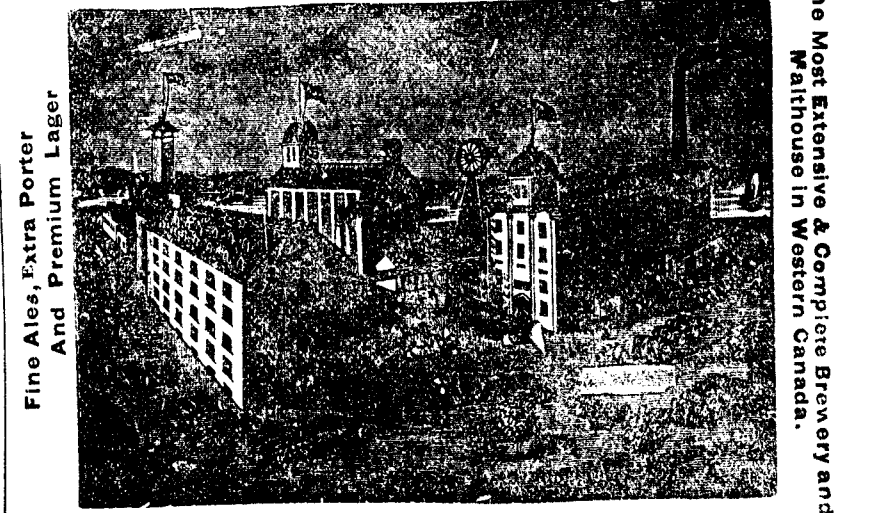
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