



## CURRENT COMMENT

We join with the Boston "Pilot" in wondering how many of the good Presbyterians who sang the praises of John Knox on May 21, his fourth centenary, are aware that his last lineal descendant became a Catholic and entered the priesthood at Notre Dame university, Indiana. "The Apostle of murder," as Mr. Lecky called John Knox, would, if still living, as readily compass the assassination of that descendant as he extolled the murder of Cardinal Beaton. But the last of the Knox blood is happily quite safe in this world and is not likely to meet the dour apostate and rebel in the next.

It is commonly rumored, says the "Daily News," that the London County Council are considering a proposal to refuse to allow head teachers of Non-Provided (Voluntary) schools to compete for the headship of county schools. A "Daily News" representative has interviewed on the subject Mr. Bruce, a Progressive member. He says he intends to support the proposal because the Church of England and the Catholic teachers are the better men, and unless they are barred the Nonconformist teachers would have no chance in competition. This is Progressiveness with a vengeance.

Our English contemporary, the "Catholic Times," from which we take the above quotation, would find many more instances of "progressiveness" if its editor lived in this country.

The British Government, however, is less unfairly "progressive." Mr. Harold Kitchener, B.A., Oxford, whose dismissal from a mastership at Bishop Stortford College on becoming a Catholic was the subject of a long correspondence in the "Tablet," has been appointed, thanks to the Colonial Secretary, headmaster of St. Mary's College, St. Lucia, West Indies.

Although the recent action of the Minnesota state library commission in refusing to approve for school libraries Sir Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories because they are too much in the detective line betrays a rather too censorious temper, still it has this advantage that it publicly and loudly proclaims the need of an Index Expurgatorius wherever ethical considerations are given their due weight, and thus it justifies the time-honored practice of the Catholic Church. We trust that the gentlemen on this conscientious commission will also turn their attention to the historical and scientific works which swarm with false presentations of facts and groundless attacks on the foundations of Christianity. Most of the popular Protestant histories are far more dangerous to the youthful mind than any of Sherlock Holmes's adventures. These latter arouse latent powers of observation and produce few if any of the deleterious effects of ordinary detective tales, while false histories are really the worst kind of fiction, all the more dangerous because it masquerades as truth.

The Toronto "News" which, in spite of its unconscious bigotry, is not afraid of facing disagreeable facts, prints the following contribution from its Montreal correspondent.

In the course of an article in reply to the Huntingdon Gleaner's attacks upon the workings of the Roman Catholic school system in Quebec, Le Canada says that the real reason for the disappearance of the English-speaking people from the rural districts of Quebec is the small families which they have. "If an English family loses two of its members by emigration it soon becomes extinct, but when four members of a Canadian family expatriate themselves there are still enough left to occupy and cultivate the neighboring lands. That is the cause of the disappearance of the English majority from the Eastern Townships and its replacing by a Canadian majority. The same

thing is taking place in Eastern Ontario, where the Canadian population is multiplying itself, and is filling up the places left by the English population, which is leaving for the Northwest. In a hundred years Canada will have a hundred millions of a population, of whom forty millions of French-Canadians will occupy all the east from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic, as well as the greater part of the New England States.

This forecast is probably not exaggerated, provided—and this is a vital proviso—the French Canadians remain true to the practice of the Catholic religion. But if, as is to be feared from tendencies already observable, any large proportion of them allow themselves to be duped by the irreligious French and French Canadian agitators whose cloven hoof occasionally peeps out in the pages of "Le Canada," then good-bye to the blessed fecundity of the French Canadian race. Race suicide is the logical outcome of religious indifference, for religion alone can foster that habit of hopefulness which is essential to the glad rearing of large families. In the seventeenth century France was the most prolific country in Europe because she then really deserved the title of the "Most Christian Kingdom." That was also the period of her acknowledged leadership of Christendom. But as soon as she became largely imbued with irreligious and antisocial doctrines and whole sections of her population neglected the use of the sacraments, the practice of limiting the number of children spread and grew till now the French people are become a proverb among the nations of the earth for race suicide. The consequence is that, despite their great natural gifts and their pre-eminence in the refinements of literature and art, they have lost the hegemony of nations so completely that, when Japan, some thirty years ago sent out her picked young men to learn the secrets of western civilization from the most promising countries, England, Germany and the United States were chosen in preference to France. And this humiliating slur on the part of the wide-awake Japanese corresponds with a period of appalling religious indifference. It has been calculated by those who know that not more than eight out of the forty millions of the French people habitually fulfil their Easter duty. The vast majority are only nominal Catholics. The same series of degradations awaits the French Canadians if they follow the suggestions of French Masonry so active just now in Montreal: first, neutral schools, with gradual elimination of the religious atmosphere; secondly, neglect of religious duties; thirdly, race suicide; fourthly, loss of voting numbers and consequently of power; lastly, utter loss of prestige.

Now that Admiral Togo has annihilated Russia's sea-power, the papers are full of detailed biographies of the Japanese hero. Watch and see how many of them will mention the well-known fact that Togo is a fervent Catholic. If he were a Presbyterian, that would be the first thing mentioned.

A successful business man who, in his early manhood, joined half a dozen secret societies, later on withdrew from them all, his experience being that, though they may be of some pecuniary advantage to men of poor ability, they are a decided drag on the progress of a self-reliant, able man.

Rev. Noel J. Campbell, S.J., of Pope's Hall, Oxford, has been awarded the Marquis of Lothian's prize for history, an annual award of £40, which is open to graduates and undergraduates alike, and is considered one of the highest university distinctions in History. Mr. Campbell, before entering Oxford, studied at the great Catholic college of Stonyhurst. To us this notable academic achievement seems but a natural result of the immense advantage enjoyed by the Catholic student of history. He alone holds the sure thread in the labyrinth of human events. All others see nothing but a bewildering maze and can only guess at the solution of the puzzle.

We hold the following characteristic anecdote from an Anglican physician. One of his patients, a Presbyterian, while bed ridden with typhoid fever, insisted on being married at the end of last April, alleging as his reason that marriages in May were unlucky. When the doctor asked him why they were supposed to be unlucky, he replied that the month of May was consecrated to the honor of the Virgin Mary, and therefore not a becoming time for weddings. To be sure, this is superstition and ought to be frowned down as such; but this constant tradition in a thoroughly Presbyterian family witnesses to the marvellous diffusion of Catholic ideas. Catholics would naturally suppose that few Presbyterians were aware of the Month of Mary devotions. Those Catholics, especially who have hunted up the origin of May devotions will be still more surprised, for they know that the practice of consecrating that month to the Blessed Virgin cannot be traced farther back than St. Philip Neri, several years after Presbyterianism had become firmly established, and that May devotions did not become at all common in the Church till the beginning of the nineteenth century. Consequently this Protestant superstition, based on a Catholic devotional practice, is not a survival of ante-Reformation traditions, but a proof of the diffusion of Catholic notions in comparatively recent years. A false inference has been drawn from the Catholic practice, an inference which no Catholic ever draws, for the supposed unluckiness of May weddings is unknown among us; but that very inference is an indirect and valuable tribute to the reasonableness of devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

One of our most scholarly friends writes: "Your Ste. Rose correspondent is always interesting and pleasingly suggestive. In fact, the only fault I, as a constant reader, have to find with this correspondence is that it is too much like angel's visits, letters 'few and far between.' However, I trust you will forgive my audacity if I venture to remark that this good Homer of yours must have been nodding, when he wrote (see Northwest Review, May 20, p. 8):

'You remember what Queen Elizabeth said to Sir Walter Raleigh:

"He either fears his fate too much  
Or his deserts are small  
Who dares not put it to the touch  
To win or lose it all."

Surely, these are the words not of Queen Elizabeth to Sir Walter Raleigh, but of the Marquis of Montrose in his poem-song 'My Dear and only Love,' Napier, in 'Memoirs of Montrose,' vol. I., app. xxxiv, gives the verse thus:

He either fears his fate too much  
Or his deserts are small,  
That dares not put it to the touch  
To gain or lose it all.

The last two lines are slightly varied in Napier's "Montrose and the Covenanters," vol. II. p. 566:

That puts it not unto the touch  
To win or lose it all.

As to Queen Elizabeth, there is just one line of hers that may have suggested this confusion of names. When Sir Walter Raleigh wrote on a pane of glass in her presence: 'Fain would I climb but that I fear to fall,' she replied 'If thy heart fail thee, why then climb at all?' Yours, etc., S. H. M.

No doubt S. H. M. is right, and we thank him for his kind correction.

## Clerical News

His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface administered the sacrament of confirmation last Sunday at the Holy Ghost church and at the German church.

His Lordship the Right Rev. E. Legal, O.M.I., Bishop of St. Albert, came here at the end of last week in the hope of meeting Mgr. Pascal, but missed him by a few hours. During his stay here, Mgr. Legal called on the Fathers of St.

Boniface College and saw the ten college students from Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge, who are his diocesans. The Bishop of St. Albert had to start for home on Sunday so as to reach Edmonton, beyond peradventure of possible delay, in time for the feast of the Ascension, when he is to give confirmation. He reports that the Edmonton district, which at the beginning of the season seemed threatened with drought, has now had enough rain, though not so much as Manitoba. He also announces that Rev. Father Corbeil, late of Yorkton territory, is henceforth to take up colonizing work in the diocese of St. Albert, and that Mgr. Breynat, O.M.I., who returned from Europe early in May, left a fortnight ago for his northern missions via Athabasca Landing.

Very Rev. A. F. Schinner was recently appointed first Bishop of the newly created see of Superior, which comprises the northern and northwestern counties of Wisconsin. He is the first native Milwaukeean to be raised to the episcopal dignity. He was born on May 1, 1863, and is one of the youngest bishops in the United States. Ordained in 1886, he has been successively pastor, professor in St. Francis seminary, secretary to Archbishop Katzer, vicar general of the Milwaukee Archdiocese, and in this office, during the last two years of Archbishop Katzer's failing health, Father Schinner practically governed the diocese, showing so much tact and resourcefulness that Archbishop Katzer, on his deathbed, selected him as Administrator, and when Bishop Messmer became Archbishop of Milwaukee, he at once announced the re-appointment of Vicar General Schinner.

At the reception tendered lately by the Laity of St. Louis to Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop Glennon it was announced that 32 prominent members of the Church had subscribed \$260,000. This, added to the fund of \$250,000 already collected by Archbishops Kenrick and Kain, and to \$75,000 promised by the clergy (\$60,000 of which are already paid up), makes the funds available for the building of the new cathedral nearly \$600,000, with the million-dollar mark in sight.

The last Apostolic Delegate to the Philippines died there after a short sojourn, and now the present delegate, Archbishop Agius, is reported to be so seriously ill of native fever that he will not be able to remain at Manila.

Canon O'Hanlon, parish priest of Sandymount, Co. Dublin, author of "The Lives of the Irish Saints," is dangerously ill. He is 85 years of age.

Mgr. Grouard, O.M.I., Vicar Apostolic of Athabaska, is at present doing episcopal duty in certain French dioceses deprived of their bishops. His Lordship may not return till August.

Rev. Father Woodcutter, who was recently laid up in St. Boniface Hospital, is now able to be about and is gradually improving.

Rev. Father Luyten is now residing at St. Joseph's, Balgonie, with charge also of St. Peter's mission, while Rev. Father Van de Velde has charge of St. Paul's mission, Balgonie.

Last Tuesday Very Rev. Father Fort, Superior General of the Sons of Mary Immaculate, arrived from Venezuela and was the Archbishop's guest that evening. He left for the west the next day to visit the houses of his order near Whitewood and Cartier. The congregation of which he is the chief originated as a diocesan body at Chavagnes, France; hence the F.M.I.'s are often called "Peres de Chavagnes." They have houses in England, South America, Dominica, W.I., and Canada. The motherhouse is now at Shaftesbury, England, to which Father Fort will return in a few days.

Rev. Father Camirand, curate at the cathedral of St. Boniface, has been appointed pastor of the new parish of Ile des Chenes, carved out of St. Norbert and Lorette. The new pastor called a meet-

ing of the parishioners this week to discuss the future church and presbytery. Ile des Chenes is a post office 19 miles from St. Boniface.

The Rochester "Catholic Citizen" prints in a special number a translation of the ritual for the consecration of a bishop to serve for the consecration on May 24th of the Right Rev. Thos. Hickey, Coadjutor to the venerable Bishop McQuaid, who has so ably ruled the diocese of Rochester for 37 years. The consecrating prelate was Archbishop Farley, of New York, assisted by Bishops McQuaid and Ludden. The Apostolic Delegate to the United States Mgr. Falconio, was present.

## Persons and Facts

The Dowager Queen Margherita of Italy is about to travel round the globe in her automobile. She will begin by visiting Spain, then go via Suez to India and Japan, then to San Francisco, finally across the American continent and return to Rome by way of New York and Genoa.

By a delicate attention of his Majesty the King, two Catholics have been appointed to wait on King Alfonso of Spain during his visit to England from June 5 to June 10. The Earl of Denbigh will act as Lord-in-Waiting and Admiral of the Fleet Lord Walter Kerr as Equerry-in-Waiting.

Mr. James Francis Xavier O'Brien, the nationalist member for Cork since 1895, and M.P. for South Mayo in 1885-95, died in London last Sunday, aged 73. He was for a number of years a tea and wine merchant in Dublin.

The concrete footing for the foundations and interior columns of the new octagonal wing of St. Boniface college is now far advanced.

The Free Press Rat Portage correspondent is beginning to head his letters "Kenora," and says that, although a large number of "Rats" will not countenance the new name, yet the majority of the citizens are in favor of Kenora. The C.P.R. is adopting the new name on its time tables, which will appear on June 4.

Last Monday morning a fire which broke out in one of the groves in the grounds of St. Boniface College, and which was probably due to the carelessness of a passer-by dropping a lighted match on the bed of dry leaves, was promptly extinguished by students playing upon the flames some of the Dominion Fire extinguishers with which the college is provided. The underbrush was burnt over about half an acre, but the trees suffered no appreciable damage.

The corner stone of the new church of the Sacred Heart, corner of Bannatyne and Lydia streets will be laid next Sunday at 7.30 p.m. His Grace the Archbishop will preside. An elaborate programme has been prepared.

In the Immaculate Conception church next Sunday some 25 children will make their First Communion at the 8.30 Mass. These, together with some 25 more, will receive Confirmation from the Most Reverend Archbishop at 4 p.m. the same day.

Great as is the achievement of the American sailing yacht Atlantic in winning the Emperor William cup, it is not a sailing record, though it is a record for sailing yachts. But the New York clipper ship Dreadnought, established in 1859 a record which is still practically unchallenged. The Dreadnought ran from Sandy Hook to Queenstown, 2,800 miles, in nine days and seventeen hours, thus averaging a trifle more than 12 miles an hour, while the Atlantic's passage from Sandy Hook to the Lizard, 3,000 miles, in twelve days and four hours, averaged a little over ten and a quarter miles an hour.