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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1899

CURRENT COMMENT

The Morning Telegram's verbatim report of Sir Charles Tupper's great speech in Winnipeg last Tuesday is so extremely valuable, so incomparably superior to the Free Press condensed report, that we regret the publication of the former in instalments spread over three days. Surely, even if Sir Charles himself had to foot the bill, a speech of such paramount importance ought to have appeared entire in the next morning's Telegram. This would have entailed the payment of a staff of shorthand writers and transcribers and the issuing of a supplement, but the money thus spent would have been bread cast upon the waters and sure to be found soon.

John W. Anderson has been acquitted as Ponton was in Ontario to the enthusiastic delight of their many friends. Doubtless the jury did their duty, which consists in declaring "not guilty" an accused person whose guilt is not proven. But we have not yet noticed that bank managers are falling over each other in their eagerness to offer these gentlemen positions of trust.

Among many good articles in Donahoe's Magazine for November especially noteworthy are "Memories of the Olympia," by Thomas J. Feeney, and "Looting in the Philippines," by John J. Sullivan. In the former the chaplain of Dewey's flagship is quoted as believing "that Aguinaldo, Pio del Pilar, and several of the leaders of the Philippine rebellion are venal instead of patriotic, and he gives utterance to these opinions after a careful study of the situation at close range; with opportunities for personally meeting several of these leaders. So far as the Church is concerned he believes this subjugation will be entirely beneficial, in that it will take the power from the crafty Chinese-mestizos, who are the promoters of all the present discord. The genuine natives he regards as tractable, with an abiding faith in the priesthood, which even the half-breeds with all their carefully concocted calumnies have not been able entirely to shake."

Mr. Sullivan's paper reflects

great credit on the enterprise and fearlessness of Donahoe's editorial management. He gives a list of articles stolen from churches and of crucifixes, etc., seized in private houses by 32 officers and soldiers of the American army in the Philippines. Not only does Mr. Sullivan give the names, companies (or troops) and regiments of all these military robbers, but he quotes the very words they used when exhibiting these treasures, mostly words that betray astounding ignorance as well as insane prejudice against Catholics. The guiltiest man in the whole black list is that overestimated swash-buckler, Gen. Funston. Mrs. Stevens and Thomas Fox saw this nice specimen of a commanding officer strip a beautiful blue silk, gold-trimmed robe from the statue of the Blessed Virgin in the Calocan Church on Feb. 11th. The gallant general subsequently presented the stolen robe to his wife. Since the Donahoe article was published we understand that General Funston has brought an action for damages against the paper that first accused him of this theft. This would seem to show that he is not densely ignorant as the other officers and privates in the list of sacrilegious robbers. Compared to their self-sufficient ignorance of the first principles of morality the most backward of the supposedly ignorant Filipinos are prodigies of learning. What makes Mr. Sullivan's paper absolutely unanswerable is the fact that either he or his assistant investigator has seen every one of the articles he describes, and that all his information was obtained at first hand.

The letter of Mr. Lister Drummond, an able lawyer and lecturer, to the London Tablet, on the conversion of a reporter brought about by the very absurdity of the slanders uttered by a fanatical lecturer, is a curious confirmation of a fact we pointed out in our last issue—the revulsion produced in clear-sighted honest people by the extravagance of partisan malice.

A correspondent, whose letter we published last week, took up the cudgels for the Jews as if we had attacked the whole race. We never did any such thing. We are quite aware that Our Lord, the Blessed Virgin, all the Apostles and first Christians were Jews. We are also aware of another future fact which our correspondent overlooked—the ultimate conversion of the Jewish people. We have great admiration for the natural capacities and thrift of the Hebrew race; but we hardly think that honest dealing with the Gentile and habitual truthfulness are distinctive characteristics of the Jewish race since it denied the Messiah. That denial has left upon the Jews as a class a malediction which nothing but the future conversion of the Hebrew people will avail to remove. However, all this has nothing to do with our opinion of the Dreyfus case. That opinion is based not upon the religion of the accused but upon the utter absence of manliness, truthfulness and virtue of any discernible kind which he betrayed during the Rennes trial as correctly reported not as travestied by the English and American press.

The Catholic Times, which is published simultaneously in London, Liverpool, Manchester and Dublin, says the published list of the casualties at Glencoe shows that, of the Royal Irish who were killed, there is only one name not distinctly Irish, while of the wounded in the regiment all but four are equally plainly Irishmen. The same proportion holds good of the casualties in the case of the Dublin Fusiliers. The same paper also informs us that prayers have been offered up in many Catholic churches throughout the British Isles for the soldiers, nearly all of whom were Catholics, who lost their lives at the storming of Glencoe.

"The Young People's Paper" is a new 8-page weekly just started in Kingston, Ont. It is both wholesome and interesting. We reproduce one of its articles on the very timely subject of the November meteors. It is a pity we Catholics have not some such weekly paper for girls and boys. "Our Boys' and Girls' Own" is no doubt excellent, but it does not appear often enough, being only a monthly visitor. There are several wishy-washy weeklies called Catholic, either devoted to children or flaunting a children's department, which are conspicuous by the absence of the taste, judgment, critical faculty and sense of humor to which the editor of this new "Young People's Paper" can certainly lay claim. Unfortunately the non-sectarian Christianity which he intends deftly to inculcate is too vague and inconclusive to please Catholics.

We can appreciate the disappointment of the astronomer who, after travelling 10,000 miles and spending \$50,000 in order to prepare for the transit of Venus—last chance in over a hundred years, found all his labor and expenditure wasted on an impenetrably cloudy sky. So was it last night, barring the long journey and the expense. People who watched for the grand display of shooting stars, booked to appear once in 33 years, saw nothing last night or this morning before sunrise, nothing but a pearly sky telling of the invisible moon behind the misty clouds, and, after moonset, they could not catch a glimpse of a single star. Perhaps they will have better luck tonight.

The anxiety about Ladysmith still endures. Everybody admires the pluck with which Sir George White sticks to his guns. The British Empire stands the terrible strain of waiting in uncertainty of the issue for telegrams that never come.

The intelligent Canadian newspaper man who prints "Britain" when he means "England" or "Great Britain and Ireland" must often smile within himself at the futility of his efforts to amalgamate Scotland with England. For that is, after all, what the use of this unmeaning term implies. There has never been any Britain since the Angles and Saxons conquered it. The term "Great Britain" was introduced a couple of hundred years ago by the Scotchmen of the time who wanted to be absorbed by England, but

Englishmen never took kindly to it. When they want to poke fun at the "land o'cakes" they call it North Britain. Irishmen of course would never think of using the word "Britain"; they talk of England and Scotland as the case may be and have no wish to lose their identity in either. It is therefore a proof of the influence of the Scottish element in Canada that "Britain" so often appears in scareheads of newspapers aiming at popularity. But the word will never make its way into the language of educated people that are not Scotch. The imperial race has been, is and ever will be the English. It is the Englishman that moulds and trains Irishmen, Scotchmen, colonists, and who is the most admired and best hated fellow the world has ever seen.

A paragraph in one of our Winnipeg dailies would seem to imply that the new church the Rev. Mr. Poliska wanted to set up for the Galicians was not a Roman Catholic church. This is a great mistake. Father Poliska is a Roman Catholic priest sent here by the Propaganda in Rome. True, he observes the Ruthenian rite in saying Mass, but this rite is approved by the Pope, and, wherever Ruthenian Catholics have a priest of their rite, they are obliged by the Pope to prefer his ministry to that of priests of the Latin rite. However, circumstances will probably prevent Father Poliska from establishing a separate place of worship just now.

Sir Charles Tupper strongly confirmed our own denial of the settlement of the school question by saying in his Winnipeg speech that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was the only person who thought the question was settled. Sir Charles also manfully, though briefly, defended his Remedial Bill. For both these consistent positions he deserves our sincere thanks.

We notice that most people about here pronounce "Mafeking" as two syllables, the first rhyming with "safe." A little reflection would remind well informed persons that "Mafeking," not being an English word, must be pronounced, as every other language under the sun is, with the continental vowels. The true pronunciation is "Mah-fay-king."

In the "Criminal Statistics for the year ended 30th Sept., 1898," we are pleased to see that the French translator everywhere prints "Catholiques" instead of the English form "R. Catholics," from which the "R" ought to be expunged. This is a Protestant form foisted upon us by a Government inimical to our religion. As there is no other class of Catholics in the government reports, the "R" is a useless and offensive excrescence, implying that we are only a sect.

Rev. Father Paquin, S.J., Rector of St. Boniface College, returned from Rat Portage this morning.

The D. & L. Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil may be taken with most beneficial results by those who are run down or suffering from after effects of la grippe. Made by Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

The evidence presented in the Molson's Bank case at the assizes last week revealed the fact that there are young men occupying positions in our great financial institutions at salaries which are ridiculous, and might almost be said to be shameful. Anderson was, of course, only a junior, but every member of a bank staff holds a position which necessitates a close attention to duty, and involves a certain amount of responsibility, and we are convinced that the statement that this young man was paid only two hundred dollars per year came as a surprise to the great bulk of the public. We suppose, however, it is simply another instance of the abominable principle of regulating salaries by the law of supply and demand which utterly ignores all consideration of right and justice, and under which, so long as employers can fill up vacancies in their staffs they will simply think of their dividends and not bother themselves about such a paltry question as what is a living wage. Such a state of affairs cannot, however, go on for ever. The supply of labor is constantly on the increase whilst the demand is by centralization and consolidation gradually getting less, and the disproportion between supply and demand is each year becoming so marked that if men are to live at all it is plain some other principle must soon be adopted in fixing wages. We should think that if there are any employers in the country who can afford to pay fair wages it is our banks and financial houses, for they are all prosperous, and with other people's money are piling up immense fortunes for their managers and shareholders. Common prudence, too, it will be thought, would convince them of the advisability of paying at least a living wage to every employee, even down to the office boy.

The announcement in THE REVIEW last week that in future the subscription to the paper will be only one dollar a year to subscribers who pay in advance, instead of two dollars as hitherto, marks an epoch in our affairs which should interest all our readers. Without any desire to blow our own horn we have no hesitation in saying that THE REVIEW deserves the support of all Catholics in the west, and this for many important and weighty reasons. It is absolutely necessary nowadays for every man in the world to keep abreast of the world's news, and to a Catholic the most important news in the world is very often just exactly what he will miss if he reads only the secular papers. Although our journal is a small one measured by inches we manage every week to crowd into our columns a mass of matter every line of which is well considered, and we venture to

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