

Northwest Review



THE ONLY CATHOLIC WEEKLY PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH BETWEEN LONDON (ONTARIO) AND THE PACIFIC COAST

VOL. XXII, No. 29

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1906

\$2.00 per year
\$1.50 if paid in advance
Single Copies 5 cents

Current Comment

Father Luis Martin, the General of the Society of Jesus, made a brave fight for life, not that he cared much for its continuance, but that he yielded to the wishes of his council. When, about this time last year his right arm was amputated close to the shoulder in order to save him from the inroads of cancer, he underwent the severe operation without anaesthetics and without a groan. His assistants, who are also his advisers, then requested all the priests in the Society to say Mass for his health during nine consecutive first Fridays of the month, from June 1905 to February 1906, inclusive. They, of course, all, to the number of about 7,200 did so, and his health remained good during all that time, so that the members of his order began to hope for a permanent cure and at least ten or fifteen more years of his efficient generalship, since he was only sixty. But early in April Father Martin was attacked with pneumonia, the fatal progress of which was so rapid that, although the English Assistant, Father R. J. Meyer, wrote to Father Lecompie, the Superior General of the Lecompte Mission, on the first signs of danger, yet a cablegram announcing that the General had received the last sacraments was the first official intimation to the Canadian Jesuits of their General's critical condition, and the letter arrived several days after the cablegram.

Next Wednesday, at 9.30 a.m., in the College Chapel, Father James Dugas, S.J., Rector of St. Boniface College, will sing a solemn Mass of Requiem for the repose of the soul of the late General of the Society of Jesus, who died on April 18. On that same day all the Jesuit priests of St. Boniface will offer up their Masses for the same intention. Moreover, all priests of the Society throughout the world will say three other Masses for their dead General, who thus gets the benefit of more than 28,000 Masses, provided, of course, Almighty God accepts this offering. For no mere mortal, not even the Pope, can decide that his prayers or good works shall infallibly be applied by God to the relief of any particular soul in Purgatory. All that we can do is to formulate the wish that these prayers or actions be thus applied. We, so to speak, vote for such and such a soul, but we have not the casting vote, and the Almighty is not influenced by majorities.

The late General, Father Luis Martin, born in Spain, was partly of Irish origin. He was a man of great intellectual ability and of still greater will power. In the first years of his priesthood he was editor of the Spanish "Messenger of the Sacred Heart," which is one of the oldest and most widely circulated of those 33 organs of the Apostleship of Prayer in 25 different languages which every month publish a leading article on the General intention proposed to the prayers of the Apostleship and approved by the Pope. But it was especially as a Superior that Father Martin distinguished himself. When he was only forty-five his record as Provincial led Father Anderledy, the then General of the Order to call Father Martin to Rome, make him his chief adviser and before dying appoint him Vicar General of the Society, to rule it till another General was elected. Father Martin fulfilled that interim duty so well during eight or ten months that when the General Congregation, the supreme assizes of the order, met at Loyola in December, 1892, he was elected General by a large majority. Since his election he has ruled the order with a rare combination of up-to-dateness and healthy conservatism. Realizing that a multitude of public proclamations is mostly a sign of weakness in a ruler, he wrote very few general communications to the order, and those he did write were terse and brief. He was preeminently a man of quiet, persevering action, prompt to seize on the proper moment, inflexible against wrong

or craft, and proof against all cajoleries. His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface has repeatedly said that the man he most delighted to talk to in Rome was the General of the Jesuits; he was so sagacious and penetrating in his characterization of public men and events. Judge Prud'homme, in his recent visit to the Eternal City, was perhaps still more deeply impressed by this masterful wisdom of Father Martin, his far-reaching forecasts and his wide and thorough knowledge of all countries in the world.

We give prominence in this issue to a very important communication we received at the beginning of this week from a Catholic missionary in the Far East. His letter, dated March 23, must have been written shortly after he had read the latest of the English China newspapers, March 16, from which we reprint extracts. The detailed information is consequently as recent as it could well be. Our readers will observe that the short cablegrams that appeared in our dailies here gave the Chinese and ultra-Protestant distortion of the Nanchang massacre, insinuating that the occasion of the outbreak was the assassination of the local magistrate by Catholic missionaries. The insinuation was too improbable to be generally believed here, and it provoked no adverse comment; but it must have found welcome lodgment in many anti-Catholic minds, and we are glad to be able to prove it utterly foundationless.

Our correspondent also sends us a very curious document, the explicit retraction of a slander by the "Proprietor and Publisher of the China Mail" of Hongkong. Anent the massacre at

Lienchau last autumn the "China Mail" had blamed in outrageous terms the conduct of one of the French priests of the Missions Etrangères; but when this rabidly anti-Catholic sheet found itself threatened with a lawsuit, it promptly retracted, as the Fathers required, and printed this retraction in its editorial page. Moreover, the Fathers having stipulated as a "sine qua non" of their withdrawal of the action for libel, that the retraction should be published three times, the "China Mail" ate humble pie three times. This must have been gall and wormwood to the "China Mail" and its reverend aiders and abettors, whose missionary work consists far less in the propagation of a mutilated gospel than in a systematic campaign of slander against Catholics, and in the prudent avoidance of all danger to their own precious selves. The lie must have been very flagrant and altogether indefensible for an important journal to "swallow itself" in the following unmistakable terms:

LIENCHAU MASSACRE

With regard to the report and the two leading articles which appeared in the China Mail of the 10th and 15th November, 1905, concerning the recent massacre, we unreservedly withdraw all imputations upon the conduct of the French priest then residing at Lienchau; and we express our regret for the publication of these imputations, and for any injury or pain thereby occasioned to the said Priest or the Missions-Etrangères.

The Proprietor and Publisher of the China Mail.

The terrible calamity which last week made the beautiful city of San Francisco a heap of ruins and ashes, killed or wounded so many of its citizens, and carried devastation and death into so many other populous centres of California, dwarfs by comparison the horrors of the Vesuvian eruption and all other disasters on the mainland of North America, although it does not equal the terrible and instantaneous loss of life in Martinique four years ago. These visitations, awful as they are, yet bring out latent faith in a God who rules the

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ST. PIE LETELLIER

We are sorry to say that Mrs. Guilbert has had bad news from St. Eustache, and has gone in consequence to the bed-side of her father, who is seriously ill at the home of his son, Father Campeau. Mrs. Guilbert has lately received a nice assortment of trimmed, imported millinery, therefore the first millinery opening at Letellier occurred in Holy Week.

The Reverend Father Bournival, S.J., from St. Boniface, assisted Father Jutras for the offices of Holy Week and Easter. Each day the Reverend Father preached on the most appropriate subject, and gave his hearers much food for reflection, especially on Good Friday, when the sermon was on the love of God, and on Easter Sunday, when the resurrection was the theme.

On Holy Thursday, the Children of Mary, and the Ladies of Ste. Anne made their general Communion. The men were especially invited for half-past eight Mass on Easter Sunday. The Foresters occupied the pews in the centre of the Church and each wearing his insignia they approached the Holy Table in a body, about 35 in number. Then followed the Leaguers of the Sacred Heart and other members of the congregation.

During High Mass two Foresters, Messrs. P. Frazer and J. Laurence, took up the collection.

The new altar, while simple, is neat and nice, and suits the present church quite well. It is white and gold, and with gold lace and pretty flowers looked fresh and devotional for Easter.

Now, we must turn to sadder topics. Another young life has been culled from our midst. A bride of a few months, Mrs. Seigfried Boiteau, has been summoned to the great hereafter. One might almost say suddenly, for but a short warning and anxious time preceded her demise, which occurred about half-past five on Holy Thursday evening.

The funeral, which in spite of people being busy seeding, was very large, took place on Easter Monday. Father Fillion sang the solemn High Mass, with Fathers Jutras and Bournival as deacon and subdeacon, and the deceased was laid to rest on a beautiful, sunny morning, which seemed to have little in common with death.

Much sympathy is felt for all the sorrowing relatives, particularly the young husband and Mr. and Mrs. Berard, the father and mother.

The Children of Mary and a number of others received Holy Communion for her. Mrs. Boiteau had been a member of the Congregation, Children of Mary, prior to her marriage just nine months ago.

ST. BONIFACE COLLEGE

University examinations end on Thursday.

Base-ball is blooming at the College. Games are played every day.

Last Tuesday witnessed a game between the Bousers and Niggers; the latter won by a score of 15 to 8. Borneau, the man with the hair, put up a very good game at first base, while Levasseur stuck to the balls behind the plate; Garnet Irvin, a Fort Rouge base-ball player, covered the third sack. Levasseur stepped up to the bat and boasted of being able to put a liner past Irvin, but Garnet's glove was in the way. We must not forget our popular friend, James O'Connell, who played a very nice game at short stop.

Dutton, who has been in delicate health all winter, returned last Saturday. Examinations for the prizes began on Tuesday.

Obituary

Jennie Hassett, wife of W. J. McDougall, 62 Mason Street, St. Boniface, died at the St. Boniface Hospital, at 3.30 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. The funeral took place at St. Boniface Cemetery on Friday at 8 o'clock.

R. I. P.

Persons and Facts

Switzerland, with a Catholic population of only 1,400,000, stands first comparatively, in the ranks of Catholic journalism. There are published within its borders four Catholic dailies in German, two in French, upward of 60 papers appearing weekly or oftener, and two literary and scientific publications,—all accomplished since the sixties of the last century.

A statue of Very Rev. E. Sorin, C.S.C., founder of Notre Dame University, will be unveiled with interesting exercises at Notre Dame, Ind., on May 3.

Emperor Francis Joseph, in Vienna, on Holy Thursday, as usual, carried out the ancient ceremony of washing the feet of twelve aged men who were on this occasion all nonagenarians, their united ages being 1,096 years. The ceremony took place in the large hall of the Hofburg before a large gathering.

As the result of a mission just given at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Atlanta, Ga., by Fathers Klauder and Scholly of the Redemptorist Mission house at Saratoga Springs, N.Y., thirty-five converts are now receiving instructions preparatory to their baptism.

The Ontario Court of Appeals has decided that religious communities of the Catholic Church may not teach in separate schools of that province without obtaining the usual qualification required of lay teachers. A section of the Separate School act has hitherto been interpreted as exempting religious communities from the examinations. Now, unless the matter is appealed to a still higher court the exemption must be deemed to have ceased. There are probably over 300 members of religious orders actually teaching in Ontario. A large percentage already have the required certificate.

All eyes would be fixed on "Prophet" Dowie just now were it not for the counter fascination of Vesuvius. There is a good deal of similarity about these dangerous explosives. Their language is sulphurous, and they are each a law unto themselves.—Catholic Standard & Times.

A fine site of four acres has been donated to the Sisters of the Divine Saviour, of Wausau, Wis., by Mr. Neal Brown, for a new hospital.

From an article on "Suicide," by Miss C. F. Yonge, in the "International Journal of ethics."

"The numbers of suicides are lowest where the Greek Church is the established form and highest among Protestants. . . . Italy and Spain are examples of less suicide in countries where Roman Catholicism yet holds her own; but Italy has begun to think while Spain remains priest trammelled, and therefore the Italian average is twice as high."

It may be interesting to know just now that there are or were just before the recent earthquake thirty-three Catholic churches in San Francisco. The Catholic population of that city is not far from two hundred thousand. Eugene Schmitz, the mayor, is we believe, a Catholic. So are many of the wealthiest and most influential citizens. The church and college of St. Ignatius, which are reported destroyed, are said to have cost two million dollars. There were 26 priests employed in the church and college.

Mr. Arthur Cavarra, his younger brother Henry, and Mr. John Slythe, all Maltese gentlemen, speaking very good English, arrived here last Monday with the intention of settling in Manitoba or the Northwest provinces. They

have some money to invest and would prefer to begin an apprenticeship in farming with some Catholic farmer, living near a Catholic church in which regular Sunday services are held.

The Rev. W. A. Moloney, director of studies in Notre Dame university, has been elected vice-president for Indiana of the North Central Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools. The other vice-president for Indiana is Dr. Bryan, president of the University of Indiana.

Prof. Schiaparelli of Milan, the discoverer of the much discussed canals of Mars is a good Catholic, and has done a considerable service to religion. When travelling in Upper Egypt, he was struck by the miserable condition in which the Italian Franciscan missionaries were living and, on his return home, he did not rest until he brought about the foundation of the National association for the help of Italian missionaries, an association in which he co-operated, and still co-operates with all his power. It is by its assistance that the Franciscan missionaries are enabled to maintain themselves in many parts of Africa, where the Sisters more especially, do a work of inestimable usefulness in educating and training the native girls. Not only have they schools at Cairo and Alexandria for the better classes, but they have extended their labors up the Valley of the Nile to Thebes and Luxor, to Assiout, and to less known places.

In order to induce the venerable Cardinal Richard, of Paris, who desired to resign, to remain longer at his post, the Pope has authorized him to celebrate Mass sitting in a chair instead of standing. This privilege has very seldom been granted in the Church, and is considered in Vatican circles as an additional proof of the high esteem the Pope entertains for the Archbishop of Paris. Cardinal Richard has finally consented to carry out the wishes of the Pope in the matter, and has withdrawn his resignation.

Judge Magoon, the Governor of the Canal Zone, has recently appointed Father Volk to be chaplain to the United States hospital at Colon.

The Correctional Tribunal, Paris, has sentenced the Abbe Richard, Cure of the church of Gros Caillou, to eight days' imprisonment, with the benefit of the First Offender's Act, on the charge of inciting his followers to resist the taking of church inventories.

Sir Francis Burnand, who is retiring from the distinguished post of editor of "Punch", which he had filled with such brilliancy for 25 years, is a Catholic.

Cardinal Prisco, Archbishop of Naples has been indefatigable in his efforts to relieve the sufferers in the desolated villages around Vesuvius. The Cardinal has made many trips to the most threatened portions of the mountain, at the greatest personal risk, to succor and comfort the people. Special prayers are being constantly offered up at all the churches in Naples. Bosco Beale, one of the villages nearest the volcano, is the birthplace of the Cardinal, and the home of most of his relatives. Cardinal Prisco distributed necessities of life to the peasants, and even went so far as to give away the rings he wore on his fingers. Repeatedly he exclaimed to the frightened peasants: "Pray, my children; you may be sure God will not desert you."

By the will of the Countess Valmont of Portugal, most of her fortune of \$2,000,000 is left to the Holy Father. Her family, however, is contesting the will.

The total membership of the Knights of Columbus in Ohio now exceeds 8,000. (Continued on page 2)