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Catholic Record.

LONDON, FRIDAY, NOV. 30, 1883.

THE HOUSE OF BETHLEHEM.

As a great deal of misapprehension exists in regard of the closing of the House of Bethlehem in Ottawa, we deem it a duty to state, notwithstanding the wicked insinuations of the bigoted, that the institution did good work and was only prevented from doing more by causes over which the good sisters had no control.

In compliance with your request, we the undersigned have examined into the founding institution on Angelsea Square known as Bethlehem, and beg leave to report as follows:-

1. That this institution has been in existence, under the management of the Grey Nuns of this city, since October, 1878. The interior of this building we found scrupulously clean and tidy. The room wherein are now placed the infants under their charge is on the second floor, and on the 9th instant, the day of our visit, it was occupied by thirteen little ones, attended to by two sisters and six servants as nurses. The ages of these children varied from a few days to a few weeks old, their physical appearance being in accord with the length of time of occupancy of their present quarters, the latest arrival being the healthiest looking. The area of this room, in our estimation, was sufficient to insure enough breathing air to the occupants thereof.

2. That since October, 1879, to October last, this institution has received 739 children, the great majority of whom came from a lying-in institution situated on the Richmond Road in the Township of Napaeon, and known as the House of Mercy, a small portion from the city and the balance from the surrounding country. At the time of our visit, half past eleven a. m., a child was admitted into this institution, born that very morning at five o'clock in the village of L'Original, about fifty miles distant from Ottawa.

The records of this institution furnish the following information, showing the number of children received yearly, the number placed out, the number who died, and the number remaining at the end of each year:

Table with columns: Year, Received, Died, Placed, Remaining. Rows for 1879-1881, 1881-1882, 1882-1883, and totals.

After the first year the number of deaths computed not only from the number received the year following, but to this must be added the number remaining at the end of the previous year. Thus in 1880-81 the number of deaths, 152, is not only resulting from the number of children received that year, but to this must be added the number remaining at the end of the year 1879-80, the above figures giving a mortality rate of something over 4 1/2 per cent.

3. That we consider the above high rate of mortality as the inevitable result of the present system of dry nursing in the institution under consideration, the causes which, in our opinion, have cooperated to bring about these results, are:

1st. The want of nourishment from the mother.

2nd. The low state of vitality and oftentimes diseased condition of many of the infants received.

3. The location of said institution, in our estimation, not being the most suitable to serve the purpose of the delicate task undertaken, in the great majority of cases of death, we are convinced, has been owing to the imperfect functions, complications brought about by disorders of that part of the system.

As corroborative of this statement, we refer to the pleasure of appending here a report from Drs. Prevost and Valade, who have been medical attendants to this institution.

4. Though exonerating the ladies in charge of this institution from all blame, believing that they, to the best of their ability, do all that lay in their power to best serve the interest of humanity; we are of opinion, however, that the system of dry nursing is faulty, being deductive of negative results, so far as aiming the chief object in view, the saving of the infant's life, therefore we would recommend that the House of Bethlehem, as a founding institution, be closed, so that no children be received there for the present system of dry nursing. After careful consideration and as the result of practical experience, we are of opinion that in order to effect a greater saving of life it is necessary that the child be nursed at the breast, this method being the only certain means of lessening infant mortality.

B. BOLLARD, M. D.,
Med. Health Officer.
J. A. GRANT, M. D.,
R. W. POWELL, M. D.,
F. X. VALADE, M. D.,
HAMNETT HILL, Ch.,
L. C. PREVOST, M. D.,
Ottawa, 11th Nov., 1883.—We, the

undersigned, physicians to the Bethlehem Asylum, according to the wish expressed by the committee, have the honor to submit the following observations concerning this institution:

Founded in 1879 by the Grey Nuns, who every where and always so generously lavish the treasures of their zeal and charity, this little hospital, destined to gather the infants deprived of circumstances, from their birth, of the care of their mothers, has had from the beginning numerous obstacles to surmount.

The scanty means at the disposal of the sisters allowed them at first to shelter the little ones in an establishment altogether too small for the always increasing number. Notwithstanding the most assiduous care, the majority of them died during the two or three months after their arrival.

The sisters did not hesitate to make further sacrifices in order to place their little foster ones in the best possible condition, and built, at their own expense, as spacious a ward as their means would allow and which we considered as sufficiently suitable with regard to hygiene.

All the children were submitted to a uniform artificial feeding, modified according to circumstances, such as cow's milk more or less diluted, always supplied by the same animal for the same children. Nestle's food and even goat's milk occasionally.

In consulting the report of the institution, we see that the mortality of 1879-80 was on an average 7 1/2 per cent; in 1880-81, 8 1/2 per cent; 1881-82, 9 1/2 per cent; 1882-83, 8 1/2 per cent.

This deplorable result does not surprise us after all. It agrees with the statistics of all other founding hospitals, where dry nursing is in use, and where the per cent of death in some reaches as high as a hundred.

Almost all the children succumbed to diseases of the digestive organs, such as catarrhal enteritis, gastro enteritis, dysentery and so on. Rarely they lived more than two or three months and perished in the most extreme state of emaciation.

We succeeded in saving all the children who had the good fortune of being nursed by their mothers, for at least the first two or three months of their existence; the two weeks of maternal feeding required of late years by the Local Government always proved to be utterly insufficient.

The endeavors that we, as well as the Sisters, have made to diminish this great mortality, brought us to the conclusion that wet nursing is the only means of obtaining this result and of saving the lives of infants in cities.

F. X. VALADE, M. D.,
L. C. PREVOST, M. D.

From the statements of those distinguished medical gentlemen it will be clearly seen that no blame whatever attaches to the good sisters. All the blame lies with the unfortunate parents, and with the depravity of society itself. With all due deference to the views of the learned gentlemen above named we may be permitted to doubt the wisdom of the course they recommend and which is to be carried out. Crime will suffer no diminution from the adoption of either temporal or spiritual of the unfortunate children born out of wedlock be improved.

Since the above writing we have read with amazement an article in the True Witness dealing with this subject. The article bears the sensational heading, "ACanadian Tewksbury House," and contains statements so extraordinary that we can hardly believe that the author understood whereof he wrote. He says:

"There is an institution at Ottawa, known as the Bethlehem for the Friendless; but if figures mean anything, the institution is nothing short of being a human abattoir, and throws the infamous Tewksbury Almshouse completely in the shade as far as the slaughter of innocents is concerned. According to the official report of the Government Inspector there were one hundred and ninety-three infants admitted to this living tomb during the year of 1882, and out of that number only twenty-two of the little waifs lived to see New Year's Day of 1883. Just think of it!—one hundred and seventy-one out of one hundred and ninety-three to have died during the space of one year!!! Such a death-rate even in a founding asylum is abnormal and is highly suggestive of crime aiding nature to do away with the little innocents. We see it stated by a contemporary that since January, 1880, no less than 500 (five hundred) infants have been hushed in the sleep of death. This mortality is alarming and calls for the immediate attention of the authorities. A rigid inspection of this slaughter-house should be made at once, and a strict investigation made into its record, its operations and the conduct of its management. While the Government is making extraordinary efforts to secure a share of European emigration, it stands by and witnesses this wholesale destruction of natives without making the slightest endeavor to ascertain wherein lies the root of the evil. It is evidently time for the authorities to take action in the matter and fix the responsibility where it belongs."

The good sisters, as any one who knows the Grey Nuns will readily believe, are ashamed neither of the figures nor facts. The mortality has been great, but not greater than nor even as great as in other establishments of the kind. We have before us the testimony of eminent medical gentlemen that infants without maternal nursing have but the feeblest chance of life. If this be so of children born under healthy conditions, what must be said of children born in conditions the very opposite? It is indeed painful to think of an institution that has done so

large an amount of good, under circumstances the most unfavorable, as the House of Bethlehem, should be termed an "abattoir," to have it compared to the blood-stained Tewksbury Almshouse, and to have it stated by such a journal as the True Witness that the death rate within its walls is highly suggestive of crime aiding nature to do away with the little ones. We stand completely amazed at the course of our contemporary. Its article that we have cited is calculated to do injury to a most deserving body of religious ladies. The Grey Nuns are, however, too well known in Ottawa, too well known in the country, to be injured either by malice or by misapprehension. They are ready for any investigation that Government may decide on. Investigation will serve to bring into bolder relief their noble works on behalf of the wretched, the abandoned and the fatherless. We feel assured that our contemporary will, upon reflection, find no difficulty in withdrawing statements so ill-founded and so injurious as those thoughtlessly, we would fain believe, advanced in its unfortunate "Tewksbury" article.

THE REAL DYNAMITERS.

We know of no punishment too great for the concoctors of dynamite stories. The latest comes from British Columbia, and is the most absurd we have yet heard. All these stories are evidently devised by needy office holders, or office seekers looking for some sort of advancement or a livelihood at public expense. The government owes it to itself and to the people to institute a rigid enquiry into these dynamite reports. The parties guilty of their invention should meet with no mercy. They are the veriest criminals, for whom no penalty can be too severe. If government of itself take no action, Parliament should at its next session call for the fullest enquiry.

THE NEWSPAPER OF TO-DAY.

Our daily journals are to be admired for the enterprise they display in collecting and publishing news. But there seems to be on the part of many of them an unhealthy purpose to procure for their readers that which is not really news, but a simple recital of scandal. The fact is that many of the papers of the day are as dangerous to public morality as if *ex professo* published for the propagation of immorality. We have been forcibly struck by the reflections on this subject of a correspondent to an American journal, who asks:

"Is it necessary that a daily paper should publish all the items that it receives, by wire or otherwise? It is true that this is a natural development of the newspaper, but it does not follow that it should be indulged or encouraged. In its early days, the press could command so few sources of contemporaneous history that there was no danger of excess in this direction. Matters were few, local interests more paramount than now, and the little space needed for Governmental and neighborhood news was filled up with reading matter which looks no supply. But the telegraph has changed all this. In every city and village sits an agent of apparently the discretion of the newspaper, at once a telegraphic and a local oracle, prepared to collect and diffuse the local news that interests his neighbors. This is well enough; but what is a managing editor for, if not to select from these masses of facts and rumors, poured in from all quarters of the globe, those which may be of value to his readers? It can be foreseen that with the extension of the telegraph some such selection must in time be compulsory. Is it too soon to begin?"

These are very pertinent questions that editors of many dailies ask themselves, but seem powerless to answer. Many of them feel ashamed of items that from time to time appear in the columns of their papers, and whose appearance is simply due to a want of supervision on their part.

The correspondent just quoted, assuming that it is necessary that all things coming over the wires should be published, proceeds to say:

"If it be, at least such an arrangement of these items might be made as would lighten the labors of those who take their paper for desirable information. Stock, and merchandise and shipping news, marriages and deaths, and other classes of advertisements, have each their special place; and the regular reader knows where to turn at once to find what he wants of each. Why not pursue the same system with the general news? Let there be, say, a heading for theatrical and sporting events; another for items concerning the drama (often quite distinct from the theatre), music, the arts of design, and literature; another for politics; another for fires, accidents, railway and marine disasters, epidemics, and physical calamities generally. Especially should there be a department for defalcations, robberies, murders, suicides, rapes, hangings, matrimonial scandals, and other moral disasters. Let this be headed, as poisons are labelled, with death's head and cross-bones, so that it may be avoided. The work on this section, thus made a specialty, would be a good school for training up, not only editors of criminal newspapers, but heroes for their future volumes, as public executions, made so now by reporters, provide for their own reproduction. Lastly, another space would include whatever might lie outside of these limits,—and probably it would be short. History seems to find no occupation in times and places of peace, order and prosperity."

We do not, of course, desire to speak here at all of papers specially published to pander to the depraved tastes of the vitiated classes of society. We speak of the ordinary dailies, and must, while giving their publishers all credit for their enterprise, declare that these papers in many cases, by their publication of matter unfit to be read, inflict grievous in-

jury on society and religion. The publication of the details of every crime and scandal is to our mind a greater wrong than the crime or scandal in itself. Journalists at their annual meetings could not do better than give some little time to the discussion of this subject with the view of removing the evil on all sides complained of.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

Not in twenty years has the same interest that is now shown on the School question been manifested in this province. We are glad of this awakening. It is, we feel confident, the prelude of a reign of justice and equality. Elsewhere will be found extracts from the Toronto World and Ottawa Citizen on the subject of the amendments set forth by us as required by the Catholics of Ontario in the existing school laws, and also an excerpt from an article in the Hamilton Tribune, severely criticising the Mowat government, particularly as to its educational policy. The World reminds us that there is not in Ontario a Protestant system of education as there is a Catholic system in Quebec. Admitting that there is not a Protestant system, there is, at all events, in Ontario a clearly defined non-Catholic system, and the principle of a purely Catholic system of education has been acknowledged by the establishment of Separate Schools. We have not made any proposal looking to the breaking up of the public school system. For those who believe in public, or, as they love to call them, non-sectarian schools, we say, let them have them. But Catholics do not, and cannot in conscience, believe in the non-denominational system. Does the World, we ask, believe in freedom of conscience? We may remind our contemporary that if each church "ran its own little educational machine" the work would be better done than it is now. When the World states that the school privileges we now enjoy were granted as a matter of expediency and not of right, it speaks without a knowledge of the facts. We refer our contemporary to the debates on the School question in the old Parliament of Canada for enlightenment on the subject. As far as the World's threat goes that the legislature should, under certain circumstances, deprive us of the rights we now enjoy, we simply state that if any such attempt were made Confederation were not worth a month's lease.

In regard of the Citizen's comments, we may, while thanking our contemporary for its kind personal reference, state that we nowise assume to speak for the hierarchy. The bishops of Ontario will, in their own good time, if to them it seem prudent, deal with the subject on their own behalf. We may, however, declare that we know we speak on this subject the sentiments of the great body of the Catholics of Ontario. Mr. Mowat has not been approached by us either directly or indirectly on the subject. We regard the matter as one above all party interest so far as we are concerned. But we feel, however, free to affirm that the party which will first boldly and courageously deal with the school question in a spirit of justice will deserve not only the commendation, but the gratitude of all good citizens and Catholics. The Hamilton Tribune's strictures on the government we cite for the purpose of showing the strong feeling on all sides prevailing in favor of educational reform. The Tribune's talk of an alliance between the government and the Catholic hierarchy is simply absurd. No such alliance, even in the remotest form, exists, or has at any time existed, while having great regard for Mr. Crooks personally, he will, we trust, be soon superseded by some younger and more efficient minister. In fact, the entire department needs a thorough cleansing.

We are specially glad to notice the interest taken in the subject of University education. A correspondent of the Globe, writing from Brantford, lately enunciated some truth, unfortunately beclouded by a great deal of error:

Since we are likely, he says, to have a reconsideration of our Higher Education, it will be much better to have our system based on a solid foundation, which will admit of being built upon and expanded

without interfering with the principles underlying it. Any system that requires to be patched up every year will never produce satisfactory results.

A leading source of weakness in our present system of National Education, felt by many good people, is, that the Church has not its rightful place or influence in it. That it should be a factor is fully recognized even by our own states. It is recognized in our Separate Schools, in the permission given to clergymen to visit the schools, and in the permission to introduce the Bible.

With reference to the first, it is well known that the Church of Rome has ever adhered to the principle of control in education, and were it not that the control claimed is absolute, and that this Church does not adapt this principle to the different relations which must exist between Church and State in different countries, the contention is a just one.

The second form of recognition has been a dead letter, and well that it has been, because experience has already proved that it is very unwise.

With reference to the Bible (and with all due deference to many able advocates in favour of introducing it into our public schools), I fear that the introduction of it will not be removed by its introduction. It would be preferable to obtain the results desired by examining the fountain head, and making pure the source which influences the character of our national schools. Let the church but exercise a direct influence in moulding the character of, and in giving true inspiration to, the men and women who are to be entrusted with the training of our children and it need not have any fears for the safety of our public or high schools. Owing to the various sects into which the Church is divided in our country, the point of contact between the Church and State must not be in our schools composed of these various elements; hence Separate Schools and religious instruction other than that given by the teacher are wrong in principle, and would destroy our educational system.

This leads me to the position already stated, that we must have denominational schools, but these must occupy a sphere strictly their own, when they are free. It has in a measure solved itself already. Our denominational colleges, as Principal Grant well observed in an address the other day, in Kingston, "have not been established merely for denominational ends, but for the highest public motives."

It is here where we want the recognition of the Church's equal rights in the matter of education. With the reconstruction of our University system upon a Provincial basis, in which the Denominational Colleges will stand on an equal footing in matters of examinations and degrees with the State-endowed College, we may safely entertain the hope that University College, for the present, will have ample funds from its present endowment of nearly half a million dollars.

By the united action of all the colleges, including University College, a reconstruction can be effected, and a cope stone placed to our educational system of which we may have reason to be proud. It cannot be treated with indifference, for should it come to an issue in asking for additional aid from the Legislature, the results will in all probability be, no action but much wrangling. And if the present system is allowed to run its course the country will be spending an amount in education which does not produce in any commensurate degree the results it ought to.

This worthy writer evidently knows nothing of the relations which should subsist between Church and state, and very little, if anything, as to the control claimed by the Church in matters of education, or he had not written his scatter-brain paragraph in regard thereof. Then he pronounces himself in favor of religious education, but declares separate schools and religious instruction other than that given by the teacher wrong in principle? We must also remind the Brantford correspondent of the Globe that it is impossible to have a denominational system of education without denominational universities. And there ought not to be denominational universities, recognized by law, without denominational schools, elementary and intermediate, also fully recognized by law. The Brantford writer lays down the following programme for University education in Ontario:

What we want:—

1. A University of Ontario.

2. University College, Toronto.

3. The denominational colleges now exercising University powers.

4. All these colleges affiliated to the University of Ontario.

5. One million dollars as a further endowment for university education. The income to be distributed between the denominational colleges doing university work, according to the most equitable plan that can be devised.

6. The first and third examinations conducted by the respective colleges, the second and final by the Senate of the University of Ontario.

7. Uniformity of fees—say forty dollars from each University student annually.

8. University College, Toronto, not to draw on public funds for scholarships, but create a fund from private donations, which will give sufficient scope for the liberality of its friends. The other colleges to provide and determine their own scholarships.

Such a programme might, if reduced to practice, meet the views of non-Catholics. Of Catholics it never can. What we require is a Catholic University, pure and simple, with our just share of state aid. We have now at least one College in actual existence with University powers. With a due share of state endowment that institution, or

some other, might easily be the coping stone of a purely Catholic education in this province.

The last words of the hardly penned when reached us of the appointment of Mr. G. W. Ross, ex-Middlesex, to the position of Education in the Crooks, resigned. The of Mr. Ross will be a satisfaction to many, unquestionably one of his party. He will boldly grapple the education, which is one of now before the government of this Province brings to his department amount of experience educational that will doubt, greatly assist in administration.

EXTREME.

The Anglican Church is troubled in the East and in the West with a mission was lately in Halifax, and has created sensation in Protestantism. We are told that certain propagated by the "not meet with approval, but, on the contrary, some as against the teachings of Protestantism consequently provoking discussion. So bitter controversy that fears of in the Church are entertained, Sunday, the 18th inst., Church, before the ser- tor, Rev. Dr. Hill, making brief address: "A deeply pained by the which have taken place of Church in England in a few days, I had in present to pass by the As respects the observation relative to the rector they are of little moment but myself, and I consider worthy of notice, I assault is made upon the Church, when all held dear by the Pro of the Reformation is when an attempt is made to the teaching of God's to the forgiveness of weighing silly women minded men into the medieval times, since longer maintained, name and in God's honor most solemn protest whole proceeding of now conducting service. At present I say n pained to the heart t vacating years I am c so much." The mis- informed, also referre 18th and on the pre in terms more or of those of Dr. Hill, Protestant clergyman Burns, of Fort Massé Church, likewise spoke strongly against th urging his hearers the services with the

But this is not all. Friends are supplied stone City Salvation other sensation equa

A despatch dated 22nd, informs us th curate of St. George agan in trouble, and sensation. He went prayer meeting of the and at what is styled feast at four o'clock and at the request he passed broad arro desired it, while th with the vessel con There was no clo prayer of consecr used in the church, ministration; but th referred to in the h holy communion, an tor of the Cathedr asked if the report requested a positio own sake and also church. Dr. Wilson and adds: "Now, i as an administration munion, then Yes; if whatever light yo may regard the r