



CURRENT COMMENT

The following thought from our thoroughly orthodox friend, the Catholic Columbian, is very timely at this latter end of the month. "As May leads to June, so devotedness to Mary takes us to devotion to Jesus."

Let no man be ashamed of his piety. Nothing can be more manly, because nothing can be more reasonable, than the worship and love of God. The greatest aberration of human reason is to deny, or even to doubt, the existence and pervasive influence of the First Cause. No secondary cause, such as the forces of nature or the will of man, can have anything like the influence on this world's happenings that belongs to what Herbert Spencer calls "an infinite energy from which all things proceed." Hence the unbeliever or agnostic cannot have any real knowledge, since he shuts his mind's eye to the ultimate causes and motives of human events. The only true philosopher is the man that knows and loves his Maker.

Education that neglects this, the highest knowledge, is no education at all. It may be undigested erudition, an accumulation of disconnected facts, but it lacks the essential requisite of mind-training, unity of mental perspective. In this sense is the following brilliant passage from Father John A. Conway, S.J., to be understood:

Education is the one thing, the only thing, that will fit man for his high destiny. Gladly, then, do I repeat the sentiment of the age—"Let knowledge grow from more to more"; gladly do I admit that a fuller knowledge will give us a more perfect manhood and a more perfect womanhood. Education is the remedy against ignorance, and bigotry, and mental narrowness, and perverse evil-doing. But it would be a great mistake to imagine that education is the peculiar heritage of this age; the desire for it is coeval with the history of man. "Let knowledge grow from more to more" is not merely the sentiment of a modern poet; it is the aspiration of the human heart. It is written on the bricks of the Babylonians, in the hieroglyphics of the Egyptians, in the bark literature of the Aztec Indians. Knowledge kept pace with the spreading culture of Greece, in a literature, after inspiration, the most sublime and the most perfect in form that the world has ever seen; it followed the conquering banners of Rome until the stately learning of Rome was the learning of the world. And our own sacred writers of the Old Testament, what were they but the educators of the chosen people of God?

Porfirio Diaz lately re-appointed himself absolute ruler of the so-called Republic of Mexico. He simply decreed that no other candidate but himself must be nominated for the Presidency. This is how the "Mexican Investor," with carefully veiled sarcasm, lest its offices in the city of Mexico be closed, chronicles the event.

The ideal simplicity of Mexican politics may well commend itself to other countries, especially the United States Republic. Every year in which a president is to be nominated and elected the people of the Northern Republic are plunged into a political campaign which keeps business in an uncertain

condition until the event is settled. Here the situation as presented last Thursday passed without the slightest excitement. A simple procession, including in its ranks representatives of various social and business life, passed down the principal avenue of the city accompanied with music; they proceeded to the National Palace and presented their congratulations to General Diaz for the victory he gained at Puebla on that day thirty-six years ago, and in the name of the Mexican people asked him to be their president of the Republic of Mexico for another term of four years. A few patriotic speeches were made, the meeting dissolved; and the important event of deciding who shall govern the destinies of a nation for a term of four years was accomplished. Mexico appreciates too well the high qualities of her soldier president to accept the rule of any one, so long as General Diaz lives and is willing to serve his country and his people.

We commend for earnest perusal the splendid article on "Leo XIII. and the People," by the editor of "The Leader," San Francisco. A rare combination is Father Yorke: an enthusiastic orator, probably the greatest on the Pacific coast, a cool, deep thinker, a forceful writer, and an influential journalist. His views on the power of the present Pope, on the necessary contrast between Pius IX. and Leo XIII., on teaching democracy and labor their duties, on the true explanation of the persecution in France, and on "bastard Americanism," will approve themselves to anyone who is able to separate the ordinary chaff of superficial journalism from the "No. 1 hard" of thought-stimulating words.

"L'Echo de Manitoba," for May 21, when enumerating the honors won by students of St. Boniface College, unwittingly omits the greatest success of the present University year, viz., the fact that Jacques Mondor secured one of the five scholarships for Latin, Mathematics and Chemistry, that he was either first or second (as appears from the Class and Honor Lists) among the six winners (the fifth scholarship having been divided between two bracketed competitors), and that he is the only candidate in the First and Second years who obtained "First Class A," or 80 per cent. and over for total standing. Compared to this honor all the others mentioned by "L'Echo" are quite secondary. True, our French contemporary states that Jacques Mondor received "honorable mention" in French and History and also in Greek; but, unless the term be explained, the French phrase, "mention honorable," implies exactly the opposite of what the University of Manitoba's "Honorable Mention" means; for the French phrase is applied to those only who do not win a prize, but who come after the winner, whereas, in the usage of our University, "Honorable Mention" signifies that the candidate was indeed the first, or, if there are two honorable mentions, the second, in that subject, but that he is precluded by the statutes of the University from taking the money of that scholarship because he has one already and cannot hold more than one. Thus Mondor's two Honorable Mentions show that he was first in Greek against 24 competitors from his own and other colleges and first also in French and History out of three candidates from his own college. This is the only instance this year—and it is a rare instance in the history of the University—of one candidate winning three scholarships.

The reason why the Latin, Mathematics and Chemistry scholarships of the First Year are rated above all other scholarships is a threefold one. In the first place, they represent subjects in which all candidates for a degree in Arts must compete. This quality they share, it is true, with the scholarships for Latin and Trigonometry in the Second Year; but the very mention of these two subjects implies the greater difficulty of three subjects in the First Year. In the second place, then, the First Year scholarships are awarded on five papers (Latin Authors, Latin Grammar and Composition, Algebra, Euclid and Chemistry), whereas the Second Year scholarships are awarded on three papers only (Latin Authors, Latin Grammar and Composition, and Trigonometry). In the third place, there were more candidates in the First Year, in which sixty competed, than in the Second, where the total number of candidates was 52.

Another mistake made by "L'Echo de Manitoba" was the statement that Louis P. Beaubien won a \$120 scholarship for Latin, when that scholarship was really awarded for the Latin Course of Philosophy, in which the Latin language is only a vehicle of thought, not an examination subject. In point of fact this year the scholarship was awarded on eight papers, only four of which were written in Latin, the four others being in French.

"L'Echo" prints the St. Boniface graduate's name as Corserault instead of Arsenault, and evidently takes Bellamy for a French name, since Miss Alpha Louise Bellamy is the only candidate that paper mentions besides the St. Boniface men. Like many an old Norman name, "Bellamy" has been Anglicized for eight or nine hundred years. All these blunders might have been avoided by a brief inquiry from some well informed person.

When Greenway and Martin abolished Catholic schools, the Liberals, all except Mr. Luxton and other honest men, praised the measure as a wise one. When Roblin tries to make restitution for the robbery by Greenway of several thousand dollars accumulated by the Catholic board for future school buildings, the Liberal organs call that "an appeal to race prejudice."

Few departments of our secular papers are more amusing to us Catholics than the reports of Protestant church meetings. The speakers generally manifest a childlike candor that almost takes one's breath away until the publicity of this baby act is borne in upon the mind as an explainer thereof. Last Saturday, at the annual district meeting in Young church (Methodist) the Rev. G. Eli Taylor, of Dominion City, mentioned that he intended to hold a camp meeting there, to which he would invite the celebrated American evangelist, the Rev. Dr. Dempster. Then arose a wordy tempest. "Outside," writes the Telegram reporter, "the sky grew black, the wind blew in squally gusts and the rain came down in torrents, while far off the thunder rolled majestically, but it was nothing to the storm raised inside the building by the announcement of that invitation, and the thunder outside seemed but the distant echo of the reverberations of condemnatory language used about the methods and doctrines of the American revivalists.

"Minister after minister got up to express an opinion unfavorable of Mr. Dempster, to deprecate the emotional nature of his methods and the extravagance of his language.

"What is the use," said one speaker, "of such statements as that 'the Holy Spirit has left the Roman Catholic church, the Holy Spirit has left the Lutheran church, the Holy Spirit has left the Salvation Army, and the Holy Spirit is leaving the Methodist church? Are such sweeping assertions justifiable or sound Methodism?'"

The Rev. G. Eli Taylor, who, we are gravely informed, looks like Hall Caine, who is an ugly caricature of Shakespeare, "boldly confessed that although for nine years he had been in the ministry and had believed himself converted, yet he had never felt satisfied of full sanctification and he had never possessed it until he heard Mr. Dempster preach a sermon in which he explained that a man who was born again was without sin. He told Mr. Dempster then, that if that were so, he was unconverted (cries of dissent) for he was conscious of sin. Since then through the grace of God and the explanation and efforts of Mr. Dempster he had attained full sanctification." Dr. Sparling thought Mr. Taylor was mistaken; so did all those who expressed their surprise that an unconverted man could get into the Methodist ministry. However, the conscience of that meeting was evidently set going in an unusual way.

The article we published some time ago against Indian dances has borne fruit. A correspondence from Regina to the Free Press, under date of the 25th inst., announces that Indian agitators, who tried to revive heathen practices under the guise of "circle dances," have been summarily dealt with by Magistrate Trant and Judge Richardson. Etchease, the Indian who started the dances, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment, and another Indian, Shave Tail, who had followed Etchease's example, has been severely reprimanded. It was Mr. W. M. Graham, agent on the File Hills reserves, who instituted proceedings, and his prompt action together with its result has caused much satisfaction among those who best understand the Indian character. The bench is to be congratulated for having thus strengthened Mr. Graham's hands and promoted the cause of law and order.

The following telegram, sent by special cable to the Montreal Star, and dated Rome, May 20, seems to hint that the Holy Father has received some promise of support in his protest against Combes from the crowned heads who visited the Vatican lately.

Pope Leo is preparing a bull for the consistory to be held June 15, protesting openly but in measured terms against Premier Combes' anti-Vatican policy. This public hostile attitude on the part of the Papacy against France, now for the first time assumed, is the more impressive because it is attributed not only to a sense of duty, but also to the covert support such a policy is receiving from various quarters.

Cardinal Rampolla, the Papal Secretary of State, does not expect that the stand to be made by the Vatican will lead to the abolition of the concordat, but he states that the Vatican is prepared for such an eventuality which will be more prejudicial to France than to the Vatican, because it will give the Church a free hand on ecclesiastical questions, and will intensify French Catholic opposition to the Combes Government policy. Rampolla's new policy is approved by the whole sacred college, which earnestly longs for the downfall of Combes.

The atrocious persecution of the Jews in Russia calls for vigorous protests from all true Christians.

Clerical News

Rev. Father Cote, late of Sandon, B.C., spent last Sunday here on his way to his new parish of Blizzard Valley, Ont. He sang High Mass at the Immaculate Conception.

Rev. Father Perrault, of Fannystelle, was here at the beginning of the week.

Rev. Father Bastien, of St. Amelie, while crossing a swamp, fell into the water up to his waist and had to remain several hours in his wet clothes. This brought on an illness from which he recovered on the 28th inst., after spending a week in St. Boniface Hospital.

His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface returned last Tuesday, and will administer the sacrament of Confirmation in St. Mary's Church next Sunday at the evening service, on which occasion he will also preach.

Rev. Father Cahill, O.M.I., who has been suffering from rheumatism, was able to leave St. Boniface hospital last Tuesday, though he is still rather stiff in the joints.

Rev. Father Lacombe, O. M. I., writes from St. Michael's Hermitage, Pincher Creek, Alta., that he has now retired there for good and all. He says that region was visited by a frightful snow-storm just before the 22nd inst.

Rev. Father Proulx, S.J., returned last week from preaching missions at Fort William West, Savanne, Ross-Port and Schreiber on the C.P.R. east.

Last week's item stating that His Grace had given Confirmation at Fort William was a misprint; the place should have been Fort Ellice; Fort William is in the diocese of Peterboro.

The Very Rev. P. Magnan, O.M.I., is visiting the house of his Order in Duluth.

In his recent visit to Qu'Appelle the Archbishop of St. Boniface conferred priest's orders on Father Ruelle, O.M.I. On Thursday, May 28, at 6 a.m. His Grace conferred minor orders on Jean Marie Mastai Mirault. Next Sunday morning he will confer the subdeaconship on Rev. Hormidas Hogue and tonsure on Mr. Perisset.

Rev. Father Lecoq, O.M.I., paid a flying visit to the capital last Tuesday and returned to St. Rose next day.

Persons and Facts

The "Brandon Times," into which "Independence" has merged, publishes a fine portrait of the local member for our Legislature, Dr. S. W. McInnis, perhaps the most polished speaker in the Manitoba House.

A Toronto firm advertising a new nursing bottle makes the following recommendations regarding its use: "When the baby is done drinking it must be unscrewed and laid in a cool place under a tap. If the baby does not thrive on fresh milk it should be boiled."