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CURRENT COMMENT

To those who might be inclined to believe that there was a grain of truth in the reproach of "Medievalism" made, in a moment of petulant pique, against St. Boniface College by a new and rather "fresh" member of the University Council last spring, we commend the following facts reported in the "Chicago Chronicle" of December 26th, last. Their bearing on the educational methods of St. Boniface College is evident from the well known fact that this college is conducted on the same lines as all the other colleges of the society of Jesus. Says the Chicago Chronicle:

"Work in the educational field carried on by the Jesuit order in this country and in the Philippine Islands is attracting much attention through the announcement yesterday that twenty-six prizes were awarded the Jesuit exhibits at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis.

These exhibits were made by the Jesuit fathers at the St. Louis Exposition. One exhibit was in education, one in historical documents and one by the Jesuit observatory and educators in the Philippine Islands was in science and fourteen prizes were awarded to it.

The summary of the awards shows that there were seven grand prizes, twelve gold medals, four silver medals, two bronze medals and one honorable mention. Besides these a gold medal was awarded to Dr. Roman Lacson, curator of the Jesuit Manila observatory, and four silver medals to Filipinos.

In the exhibit of education the colleges which took part were the St. Ignatius College, of Chicago; the St. Louis University, the Creighton University, of Omaha; the Marquette College of Milwaukee; Detroit College, Detroit; St. Xavier College, Cincinnati, and St. Mary's College, Kansas. The grand prize for general excellence of the educational exhibit is due to the work of all these colleges combined, although the St. Louis University, in whose name the exhibit was entered, is the one expressly mentioned in the award. Another grand prize was awarded for the special exhibit of topographical anatomy and another for special exhibit of embryological drawings.

Threesilver medals were awarded, one for collection of mounted pathological specimens, one for cabinet of chemical crystallography and one for books of original odes in Greek, Latin and English commemorative of the Louisiana purchase.

A gold medal was awarded specifically to the Creighton University of Omaha, Neb., for pathological and histological drawings by students of the medical department. A bronze medal was awarded to the St. Louis University for stenographic reports of lectures, recitations, etc., in the various departments of the university.

This is undoubtedly a very fine showing in the various departments of chemical, medical, astronomical and meteorological science, as well as in ancient and modern literature and in that very useful commercial and journalistic asset, shorthand. But there is another and a more valuable award bestowed on a Canadian connected with a Canadian college. "In historical exhibits," says the same number of the Chicago Chronicle, "the grand prize for excellence was awarded to the exhibit of the St. Mary's College archives of Montreal, Canada. A gold medal was awarded to Rev. Arthur E. Jones, S.J., Archivist of St. Mary's College, and a silver medal to Rev. John C. Burke, S.J., of St. Louis University." In its issue of Decem-

ber 29, the same paper published a large and well executed portrait of Father Jones, with the information that he "has been at St. Louis exhibiting a number of paintings, manuscripts, maps and books belonging to missionaries who invaded the districts of Illinois during the latter years of the seventeenth century and the early part of the eighteenth," and that he "now has his valuable collection on exhibition at the Chicago Historical Society." This collection of precious manuscripts and maps, many of them as yet but partially published, is acknowledged by experts in American history to be the most valuable on this continent, and is due to the keen historical insight and patient researches during thirty years and more, of Father Jones, who is the greatest living authority on such matters. The gentlemen who published some years ago a new and enlarged edition of the Jesuit Relations, continually deferred to Father Jones' judgment on texts and translations as to a court of final appeal. We see by the "Chicago Tribune" that he gave a lecture before the Chicago Historical Society, Dearborn avenue and Ontario street, on the collection of rare manuscripts shown at St. Louis and now on exhibition in the Historical Society's rooms. Father Jones, who is now in his sixty-seventh year, is a native of Brockville, Ont., and a descendent of a United Empire Loyalist family. He was one of the first students of St. Mary's College, Montreal, where he laid the foundation of that wide and varied culture which has since made him one of the glories of his Alma-Mater. His artistic skill in sketching and drawing adds much to the accuracy and charm of his historical monographs.

The typhoid epidemic is still growing in the fashionable south end of the city. While sympathizing with so many stricken families, we cannot help thinking what a howl would have gone up to the high heaven if such a record of widespread disease had been found in some poor quarter. What an outcry of denunciation there would then have been heard against the uncleanly habits of the poor, especially if those poor victims had been foreign Catholics. But the victims being well to do, being in the lap, as it were, of perfect plumbing, no blame is attached to them and strenuous efforts are making to discover and uproot the cause of the scourge. It looks very much as if physicians would have to come back to the old idea that typhoid is practically infectious.

The Catholic peerage must have sadly degenerated for the "Tablet," that staunch upholder of the aristocracy, to feel bound to write, as it did on Christmas Eve: "The Catholic vote in the House of Lords could now be counted on as thirty-four, instead of thirty-two a year ago, if it could be counted upon at all; but recent experience has shown that divisions affecting grave interests of large classes of the community have not been voted in by more than a devoted fraction of the Catholic peers. For all practical purposes of legislation the Catholic peers might as well have been left under the civil disabilities that their fathers were assisted by O'Connell to remove."

The Casket says: "The criminal statistics for 1903, just published, show that drunkenness is on the increase in Canada, as proved by the convictions in the courts. In Ontario the increase has been twenty-eight per cent.; in Manitoba, seventy-five per cent.; in Nova Scotia, one hundred per cent. Quebec is the only province in which there has been a decrease. [Of 22 per cent.—Ed. N. R.] Score another point for the benighted, priest-ridden French-Canadians." Moreover, the only anti-prohibition province is also, as the "Messenger Canadien

du Sacre Cœsur" points out, the one in which there are fewest drunkards in proportion to the population. "A goodly portion of this happy result," adds our Montreal contemporary, "may well be attributed to the Men's League of the Sacred Heart." Men's sodalities, as the Canadian and American experience of the best conducted parishes shows, are the strongest bulwarks of Catholic virtue.

Mr. Arthur Preuss has changed his weekly "Review" into "The Catholic Fortnightly Review." The number of pages per month will remain as before. Nothing, in fact, will be changed but the title and the date of appearance. The reason for the fortnightly innovation is thus given by the founder, editor and publisher, who, be it remembered, also edits a German daily paper:—"To one who, in frail health, is obliged to devote the major portion of his time to daily newspaper routine, the editing of a thought-provoking weekly magazine with some pretension to originality, necessarily involves a physical and mental strain which, in my case, has proved rather too severe. Fortnightly publication will somewhat ease the tension and give me leisure to treat contemporary events in that calm philosophic spirit, which it has been my constant endeavor to infuse into the pages of the Review. I am satisfied that those who oppose this journal and the causes it strives to serve will dislike and fear it none the less if it appear but twice a month; while its friends and supporters will probably relish its visits all the more keenly for their increased rarity." Although we gladly welcome any change that may ease Mr. Preuss's arduous labors, yet we do not fully endorse this last sentiment of his; we shall miss the weekly visit of his strong and brave Review.

As to the change of title, Mr. Preuss writes: "This journal was begun in the great metropolis of Lake Michigan, in 1893, as 'The Chicago Review.' When after issuing the first number in a large edition, I made application at the Post-Office for the second-class privilege, it turned out that another paper had already been entered under that name. The new venture having been advertised extensively, I did not like to drop the distinguishing title of 'Review' and simply therefore cut out the 'Chicago.' Thus my little journal acquired the broad name which has so often during the past eleven years, and I may say, so justly, been criticized as too indefinite and not sufficiently indicative of its true object and scope. The change from a weekly to a semi-monthly necessitates a new application for entry, and I have improved the opportunity to carry out a purpose long entertained—namely, to give the paper a more distinctive and appropriate title. I think the one I have chosen: 'Catholic Fortnightly Review,' will please my friends and silence a certain class of critics. I did not like to drop the 'Review' even now, because it has become so closely identified with my own name and is, so to speak, the badge of an international reputation." We confess that the old title, "The Review," did seem a trifle pretentious in its generality; but the founder's explanation of how that title came into being, is quite satisfactory. The new name being altogether unique, will save us from the necessity of adding, when referring to the "Review," the prefix "Preuss's" or the suffix, "of St. Louis."

We heartily congratulate Mr. Arthur Preuss on the beginning of his twelfth year as editor of a journal which has always been "constant and courageous" in its battles for integral Catholic truth and against the shallow minimizing of the liberalistic school, while eagerly accepting all the well established conclusions

of real science and of social, commercial and political economy.

Although most printers are ignorant of Latin, and therefore, weak on the derivation of many common English words, still they are generally careful in their spelling, so much so, indeed, as to have been credited with being the only class of men who spell correctly in all cases. It must, therefore, be a keen humiliation to them, or at least to the more scholarly among them, to read, in the resolution passed last Saturday by the Winnipeg Typographical Union, the impossible and non-existent word, "inimicable." "Inimical" all dictionaries admit; nay, it is a venerable word, about the sound of which orthoepists of the early nineteenth century used to wrangle, and which our grandfathers often pronounced with a strong accent on the third "i", making it rhyme with "Michael"; but "inimicable" is unknown, except to the genius of the W. T. U., who drew up that resolution against the City Council getting its printing done at Dayton, Ohio.

Persons and Facts

In connection with the newly organized Italian Mechanics' and Tradesmen's Mutual Benefit Society it is, asserted that there are nine hundred Italians in Winnipeg.

In the "Municipal Statistics of Manitoba," published last Saturday by the Free Press the 111 municipalities are credited with an aggregate population of 257,267. There are only two cities: Winnipeg with a population set down as 67,265, and Brandon with 7,006. The population of the towns is as follows: Birtle, 320; Dauphin, 1,176; Emerson, 882; Gladstone, 1,100; Minnedosa, 1,118; Morris, 457; Neepawa, 1,452; Portage la Prairie, 4,200; Rapid City, 716; Selkirk, 2,490; Souris, 925; St. Boniface, 3,428. The population of the places technically styled villages is: Boissevain, 900; Carberry, 1,034; Carman, 1,585; Deloraine, 750; Gretna, 800; Killarney, 900; Manitoba, 669; Melita, 490; Morden, 1,533; Pilot Mound, 550; Plum Coulee, 325; Virden, 1,200. Of the municipalities undistinguished by the adjunct, "city", "town", or "village", the most populous is Rhineland with 7,063; the least populous is Bolton with 297.

Five of the members of Parliament for Great Britain are Catholics: Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. James Fitzalan Hope, Colonel Lord, Edmond Talbot, and Sir John Austin.

Russians and Greeks, being thirteen days behind, celebrated Christmas last Saturday. So did our Ruthenian Uniate brethren. Their fine new church in Flora street was filled with devout worshippers. Their New Year begins on Saturday, January 14.

There are more than fifty Chinese laundries in Winnipeg; moreover, one Chinaman keeps a restaurant and another a shop for Japanese goods.

The first meeting of the new French congregation in St. Mary's Church last Sunday afternoon was most enthusiastic. Fully five hundred persons were present and highly appreciated Rev. Father Portance's eloquent inaugural discourse.

In striking a balance against Ireland recently, some critic discovered that that afflicted island never produced a Shakespeare, says the Denver Intermountain Catholic. It is as true of England to say she never produced a Burke, and in looking around for some equal for Burke, after his death, a critic of

some note places him, as regards imaginative powers, on a level with Shakespeare. Dr. Johnston, who was his uncompromising foe in politics, entertained as high an opinion of his oratory. One of his acquaintances asked him if Burke did not remind him of Cicero. "No, sir," was Dr. Johnston's reply, "but Cicero reminds me of Burke."

In a recent lecture in Dublin on "The Census (of Ireland) and Its Significance," the Irish Registrar-General gave some interesting facts. The total population of the country, according to the census referred to (that of 1901) is 4,458,775, of which 3,308,661 are Catholics, being 74.21 per cent. of the whole. In three of the four provinces the majority of the Catholics is overwhelming. In Leinster 85.2 per cent. are Catholics, in Munster 93.6 per cent. and in Connaught 95.8 per cent. The percentage of Catholics in the northern province—"Protestant Ulster," as it is sometimes called—is 44.2 per cent. On this last fact it may, however, be remarked that the Protestant majority in the province is due to the great preponderance of Protestants in Belfast. In Ulster outside this city the Catholics are in the majority, so that "Protestant Ulster" is a very incorrect and misleading designation, true only of one corner of the province.

Foster's latest forecast, dated January 7, says: "Soon after the date of this bulletin will come a great rise in temperature and a January thaw. A cold wave is due about the 7th and the reaction to warmer will be rapid. The 12 days, Jan. 9 to 20 inclusive, will average warmer than usual." There are no signs of that thaw here. On the contrary, we are just now (Jan. 10) enjoying the coldest weather yet experienced since winter set in. Fortunately, however, Foster manages to blow hot and cold in the same breath and thus can always explain himself away. In the same bulletin he had said, 23 lines before, that about January 12 "a cool wave is expected to cover the central valleys from Winnipeg to the Gulf of Mexico." Of course, a wave might be "cool" and yet "warmer than usual," if the usual temperature in January is very low. But he goes on to define his cool wave, so as to make it very cold. "From about the 15th"—which, be it remembered, is five days before the end of the "warmer than usual" period quoted by us above—"to the 30th the fall in temperature will be very great, at least 40 or 50 degrees, and the last days of January will be very cold." This last is an eminently safe guess, considering that the period between Jan. 18 and Feb. 22 (the two Chairs of St. Peter) has been proverbial, for nearly three hundred years, among French Canadians, as the period of great cold.

Last Sunday night a specially constructed thermometer registered 54 degrees below zero at Saskatoon. On Tuesday morning Brandon reported 40 below, Yorkton 45, Minnedosa 48, Winnipeg 31 below, clear calm.

Mr. and Mrs. Lepine, of 269 Maisonneuve street, Montreal, had, on January 2, their fourteenth child in twelve years. There were five pairs of twins. Of the fourteen, ten are living, the eldest being ten years old.

After noting the recent erection in St. Peter's at Rome of a colossal statue of the new saint, John Baptiste de la Salle, a Rome correspondent says that this event reminds us that St. Peter's is still far from being complete, although it is four centuries ago since it was begun—in fact, it is hardly likely that it will ever be completed while the Church Universal continues to put forth new forms of spiritual life. Many of the niches are already filled with