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Northwest Review.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6 1899

CURRENT COMMENT

A report of the Confirmation services at St. Mary's Sunday before last, though quite ready for our last issue, was, through a deplorable oversight, omitted. We print it in this number.

At the special service for Galicians, Poles and Germans in the Church of the Immaculate Conception last Sunday — of which a report appears in another column—His Grace the Archbishop spoke a few touching words to welcome and encourage this large and important part of his flock, after which Rev. Father Albert Kulawy, O.M.I., preached to them in Polish, and his brother, Rev. Father William Kulawy, O.M.I., in German. The audience showed signs of deep emotion. The service closed with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

After Benediction there was a general meeting in the school house, at which great enthusiasm was manifested for the building of a new church. A managing committee was formed and the subscription list, signed on the spot, was very generously filled. The church, to be dedicated to the Holy Ghost, will be situated near the present church of the Immaculate Conception. Mr. Senéal has drawn the plans of a new edifice. The territory tributary to this church will comprise all the city of Winnipeg, and the persons who will worship therein are all the Galicians, Poles and Germans not yet attached to any church. The Polish and German languages will be used exclusively in the sermons preached there. The inauguration of so holy an undertaking is full of promise for the salvation of souls.

UNIVERSITY HONORS.

The Convocation of the University of Manitoba took place last Friday at 8 p. m. The success of the St. Boniface College candidates was most gratifying. Of the ten scholarships for which they competed with candidates of the three other colleges (Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist), of the various col-

legiate institutes and of any other school (for anyone from anywhere may compete in these examinations), they won four: the first scholarship and the medal for Latin, Mathematics and Chemistry for the Previous Year (\$90), which was awarded to Elzéar Beaupré, who, by the way, is just turned sixteen while while most of his competitors were three or four years older; the second scholarship of the Preliminary year (\$80), awarded to Adonias Sabourin; the Previous Greek scholarship (\$40), awarded to Joseph Prud'homme; and the Preliminary Greek Prize (\$25), won by Josaphat Magnan. The total number of candidates from all quarters for the first two of these scholarships was about 230; the St. Boniface candidates were 10. Thus, where they had a right to expect one twenty-third of the honors, they secured one fifth, and, taking into account the money value of the prizes, they carried off \$170 out of \$660, i. e., more than one fourth. Moreover, Elzéar Beaupré shares with Isabella McGregor, of Manitoba College, the exclusive honor this year of having won three scholarships and having been first in seven subjects. However Beaupré surpasses her in that, when he was not first, he was much nearer the first than she was. Thus in Trigonometry, Chemistry and Horace he was second out of 68 Previous candidates.

For three years in succession St. Boniface has won the two Greek scholarships. This time, in the Previous, out of 25 Greek candidates, the first, second and fourth on the total were from St. Boniface. In the Preliminary year Magnan had earned the Greek prize, having been first out of 24 in two papers, viz., Homer and Greek Grammar, and second in Xenophon, while Beaupré was first in the three papers of his year (Homer, Demosthenes and Plato, Greek Grammar and Composition); but he chose rather the \$40 scholarship of French, History and Geography, in which he ranked immediately after Sabourin. Here we beg to call attention to an unfortunate oversight in the Class and Honor Lists. The name of Sabourin, who, as appears from the detailed table, was first in the five French equivalents, and who ought therefore to have received "Honorable Mention" for the French and History and Geography of the Preliminary, is left out.

Alfred Bernier won the \$60 scholarship in the French and History of the Previous; Jean Arpin, the \$120 scholarship, and Gonzague Bélanger, the \$80 scholarship of the Latin Philosophy course. In the second year of Philosophy the silver medal was awarded to Fortunat Lachance and the bronze medal to Louis Laliberté, who improved so much in his Senior B. A. year that he raised the total of his marks, which, last year, were second class, to first class.

In the B. A. Pass subjects St. Boniface kept up its reputation for thoroughness by taking first place in Latin, won by Arpin.

The result of the Chemistry examination in the Previous reflects great honor on the teaching of that branch in St. Boniface College. The three other colleges unite under one distinguished professor of chemistry, while St. Boniface students

are taught in French by one of the Fathers. Of the three other colleges some thirteen candidates failed in this subject; as to St. Boniface, not only not one of the candidates failed, but the lowest of our candidates was 18th out of 55 who passed, and the remaining six out of the seven St. Boniface candidates were 2nd, 6th, 12th, 13th, 15th and 17th.

A curious and instructive commentary on the high comparative standing of our students might be drawn from the following incident. A St. Boniface candidate, who did not shine among his classmates, was looking for a "Class and Honor Lists," and when asked why he wanted it, he said he wished to show his parents that, although he was habitually the last in his class at St. Boniface College, he cut a very fair figure in the University lists, being often well up towards the middle, occasionally far above it and never once last.

Of course the great victory of this year is the winning of the Previous medal by Elzéar Beaupré. This is the sixth time St. Boniface College has won this, the most valuable prize of the University, which has been bestowed in all 21 times. Considering that the proportion of our Previous candidates to the total number has been hitherto hardly one twelfth, six out of twenty-one represents an average success that need hardly be emphasized.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

"The Literary Digest," a journal published in New York, which has a good many readers in Winnipeg, is an interesting paper in its way but in one of its departments at least, and many think in two, it falls very far short of being what its publishers claim, namely "a weekly compendium of the contemporaneous thought of the world." We have no hesitation in saying that under the heading "The Religious World" it almost invariably shews, if not Protestant bias, at least regrettable lack of accurate information on matters affecting the Catholic Church, and when treating of "Foreign topics" it does anything but justice to British thought and action. We wish to say nothing further on the latter point, but on the former we would add a word or two. What we complain of is that without being actually anti-Catholic the selections from the European press affecting the Catholic Church are almost always taken from un-Catholic sources, and, therefore, generally give readers of the Digest a very false impression. This was notably the case, for instance, in the issue to hand this week, in which a movement amongst the Catholics in Austria is very inadequately treated and prominence is given to an article by General Booth, of the Salvation Army, on "the Religious conditions on the Continent of Europe." With regard to the Austrian question the Editors of the "Digest" were evidently without proper knowledge of the latest phase of the matter as given in the reliable Catholic journals of Europe. And no paper can lawfully claim to give an adequate summary of "contemporaneous thought" on a Catholic matter unless it has

access to Catholic publications. Again General Booth is the last person in the world capable of giving satisfactory evidence as to the spiritual condition of the Catholics of Europe, and as a matter of fact if the Editors of the "Digest" gave fair consideration to Catholic journals they would have known that the article they quote was, so far as it referred to Catholic countries, nothing but a mass of hysterical absurdities and not worthy of a place in the columns of a paper such as theirs. These are two instances out of very many which we could quote from recent issues of the "Digest"—and on the other hand it would be difficult to select one article printed in the paper of late really acceptable from a Catholic point of view. We regret this, for, as we have said, the "Digest" is in many ways an interesting paper, and in its other departments is well-edited and acceptable to all classes of its readers.

In fear and trembling we would venture to say a word on Church music. We do not intend, and, indeed, we have not the slightest wish, to criticize the ladies and gentlemen who so freely and generously give their time and their talents in the production of our choral services, but we would like to enter a plea for a more general adoption of Gregorian music in relation to public worship. All authorities admit that the sublimest and most devotional music is contained in the Gregorian chant, and Catholics from the highest to the lowest, at least with very few exceptions, agree with the authorities, and distinctly disapprove of anything in our services which has an operatic or secular tendency. An operatic or secular piece of music, far from assisting and sustaining the devotions of a Catholic congregation almost invariably jars on the feelings and has an effect exactly opposed to that which music in the church is intended to have, whereas on the other hand the grand plain chant not only adds to the solemnity of the sublime service of the Church but for that very reason appeals to the worshippers and intensifies their devotion. One evidence of an operatic or secular tendency in church music is the advance notices which sometimes appear in the daily press of solos to be sung by certain vocalists at Mass on the following Sunday. It seems to us that these advertisements might well be dropped entirely, indeed solo signing should, as much as possible, be avoided. Let us have, as a rule, plain chant properly sung, this will be appreciated not only by Catholics but also by Protestants who may visit our churches. Choirs make a great mistake if they think that Protestants are anxious to hear are favorably impressed by the rendition of an elaborate choral service; they may be attracted once to a service of the kind but they will rarely come again on that account, for they can hear the same thing, often to much better advantage, in their own churches, whereas a plain chant service correctly given will often come to them with all the force of a revelation and they leave the church with a better appreciation of the digni-

ty of the service and a desire to know more of a religion which brings to its aid music so eminently fitted to the expression of the religious feeling.

We have just finished reading G. W. Steeven's book "With Kitchener to Khartoum" and would earnestly recommend it to all our readers as one of the books of the year which they cannot afford to miss. It is not merely a tale of battles gallantly fought and brilliantly won but it is a powerful narrative of one of the very greatest undertakings ever carried to a successful issue in the interests of Christian civilization. Written for the most part in that vigorous style with which Kipling has made us familiar it contains several passages which have never been excelled by that great master of healthy realism, and men rise from its perusal blessing the land of their nativity and thanking God that they, too, are Britons. It is not without special interest to Catholics and Canadians—indeed one of the most interesting chapters in the whole book is that dealing with the Director of Egyptian Railways, Major Girouard, the young French Canadian, who was in many respects Kitchener's right hand man. We would add that a people's edition of this great book has been published and can be obtained in the city for the small sum of 25 c. It is, therefore, within the reach of all, and in our opinion the rising generation would obtain a very desirable acquaintance with current history if some means could be adopted whereby reliable works such as this giving authentic details of important events might be introduced into our schools.

'VARSITY VARIA.

Everybody regretted that His Grace of St. Boniface was too unwell to deliver the address which he had prepared for Convocation. It was a delicate compliment to invite him to speak on an occasion when his own college scored so brilliant a success.

A melancholy strain was noticeable in the opening address of the Chancellor, the Archbishop of Rupert's Land. He regretted that the choice of the new site for the University Science department would oblige his college to do all its teaching within its own walls, which are three miles away from the proposed new building. He also gave expression to the belief that the newer element in the University did not sufficiently appreciate the devoted labors of its first founders.

Of the fifteen candidates from St. Boniface College not one failed in any subject. There were seven candidates for the Previous examination competing with 63 others, collegiate and non-collegiate, and one of the seven carried off the first of the five great scholarships. There were three Preliminary candidates competing with 157 other candidates from all parts of the province, and one of the three carried off the second of the four great scholarships in that year.

After St. Boniface Wesley College was the most successful of