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CURRENT COMMENT

Through the courtesy of the publishers of the Northwest Contractor, we are able to favor our readers, this issue, with a cut of the proposed new German Catholic Church, soon to be erected on College Avenue, Winnipeg. The German Catholics of Winnipeg are indeed to be congratulated in the first place, for their commendable zeal in undertaking to build so large and costly an edifice, and secondly for the handsome design they have chosen. The German Catholics, wherever found are a progressive, law-abiding people; and are numbered among the Church's most zealous, loyal and obedient children. It is a characteristic of the German to do nothing by halves; he wants the best and the best only. The building will be constructed entirely of white brick, relieved at the corners by blocks of artificial stone. The dimensions will be as follows: Width 74 feet; length 155 feet; with transept projecting 19 feet from the main building. The ceilings are to be finished in pressed steel, and the building will be roofed with metallic shingles. The architect is Mr. L. de Jurovski, of Winnipeg.

Archbishop Glennon thus writes of the Vatican exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition:

"The Papal Exhibit at the World's Fair, is of a nature emphasizing the fact that the Vatican is a storehouse of the world's most precious historical treasures. Twice during the world's history has art attained a position of unrivalled excellence. Now of these two great periods the Vatican has fortunately become the receptacle of their most remarkable productions, and it is within its walls that is left for our study the synthesis of the art-world's best work."

The Pope, it would appear, is determined to make of Rome the centre of Biblical study. It is a curious commentary on the hollowness of Protestant claims with respect to their greater love for the Bible that the Pope is actually taking measures to preserve and defend the sacred volume against the Higher Criticism, whilst they are busy defending the good book against the fierce attacks of many of their own ministers. Quite recently the Rev. Robt. Russell Booth, Presbyterian, declared that of these assaults continued, in time to come "there will be but one refuge and that will be the Roman Catholic Church, which, whatever it has added to the word of God, has taken nothing from it."

Only a few days ago four of the most eminent of the Protestant preachers in the United States preached highly sensational sermons utterly antagonistic to Christian belief. Two of them ridiculed the Bible, one denied the doctrine of the Resurrection, whilst the fourth scouted eternal punishment. The instability of Protestant preaching is well illustrated in the following anecdote told by the Baltimore Sun:

"One day a member of a certain church, who had listened attentively for five years to the preaching of his pastor, took to the divine his Bible, which was truly a sight to behold, with whole books clipped out here or a passage gone there. Indeed, between, the covers there was little else left but a few shreds of paper. The pastor was horrified, and rebuked his parishioner for using the Bible so shockingly. To this rebuke the parishioner made the following meek retort: 'It is all the result of your preaching. When I went home from church each Sunday I cut out of the Bible that which you

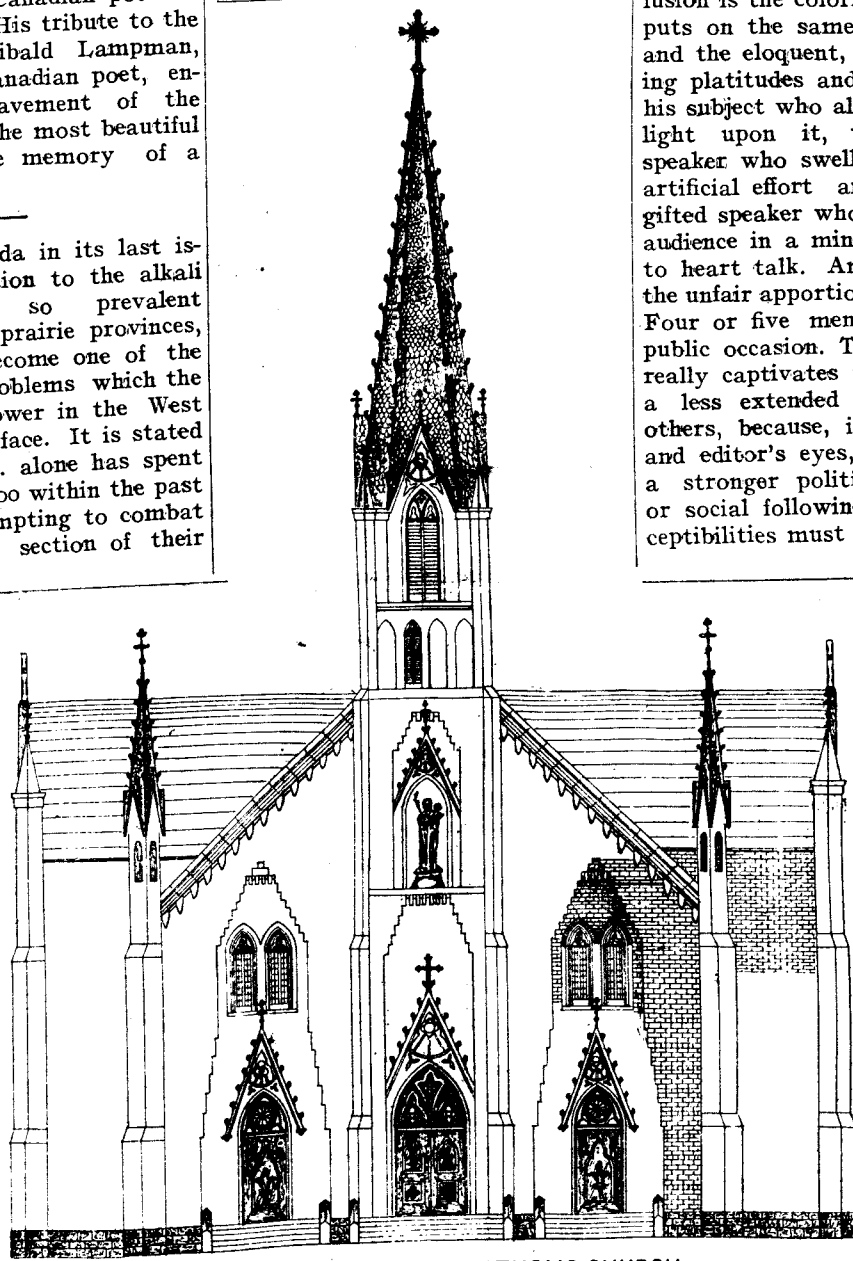
had criticized in your sermon of that day. That verse on the Trinity was an interpolation; so out went the strong verse. Then the canonicity of this book and that was doubtful; so out went this book and that. John did not write the gospel of John; so out went what was called the gospel of John. This bit of history was not history, only allegory; so out went the false and deceiving thing. Positively, sir, I have been faithful with my shears, and this is all the Bible I have left—the two covers and a few tatters."

One of our American Catholic exchanges—The New World—includes William Wilfrid Campbell in its list of Catholic poets. No, Campbell is no Catholic, but a minister of some Protestant denomination. He is, however, a Canadian poet of much excellence. His tribute to the memory of Archibald Lampman, another great Canadian poet, entitled "the Bereavement of the fields," is one of the most beautiful ever paid to the memory of a Canadian author.

Industrial Canada in its last issue draws attention to the alkali water scourge so prevalent throughout our prairie provinces, and which has become one of the most serious problems which the user of steam power in the West is called upon to face. It is stated that the C. P. R. alone has spent close on to \$350,000 within the past 9 months in attempting to combat this evil, on that section of their

by certain time-honored tests which others find out after a long and painful experience. If any art is habitually transmitted by heredity and tradition surely it is the art of governing men. Of course we are far from maintaining that great art is confined to the ruling or leading classes. There does not seem to be much room for heredity in Mr. Carnegie's case, although he, too, may have had among his unknown ancestors some "kings of men." All that we insist on is the hoary antiquity of the principle that a first class ruler loves to use men cleverer than himself. It is only the second or third rate ruler that dreads being overshadowed by the greater talents of his subordinate chieftains.

"The Critic" in Town Topics deserves credit for plainness of speech



PROPOSED NEW GERMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

line between Winnipeg and Moose Jaw. Seven months is the life of the ordinary locomotive on this section of the road, as compared with four years in the province of British Columbia, where the water is pure.

With a view to eliminating the primary cause of the trouble the Company are now erecting water-softening plants at different points on their road.

Mr. Carnegie, in an address the other day, to the students of Edinburgh University, prided himself on knowing how to discover and use men cleverer than himself. Apparently Mr. Carnegie deems this faculty of his a modern growth but it is really very old. History shows that the greater rulers of men have excelled, not in personal cleverness, but in the power of knowing men and singling out those of their helpers who had the greatest gifts in each line of special work. This has always been the strongest defence of hereditary monarchy. Hereditary kings may not be as clever as self-made men, but they have been brought up to distinguish between ordinary and extraordinary talents, they are trained in their youth to gauge character

with regard to Mr. Morang's lecture on Joseph Howe. Mr. Morang had been heralded as an excellent lecturer before his appearance here a fortnight since, and after he had come and spoken the daily papers pronounced his lecture a great success, regretting only the audience was not sufficiently large. But the "Critic" punctures the bubble in this honest fashion.

"Mr. Morang, if I may be pardoned the criticism, should not deliver lectures, he should only prepare them for someone else to deliver.

That would be asking a great sacrifice from him but I am sure he is sincere in his desire to increase a knowledge of Canada's great men among the people generally, and he has not the gifts that make a popular lecturer.

The matter offered was splendid, it was well arranged, and not too long, but many of those sitting in the rear seats did not hear half of what he said, and even those nearby lost the end of many sentences, and it was a constant effort to follow the speaker.

To attract young people, and they are the ones that should most especially be attracted by

lectures of this class, the speaker should have a good voice and some idea of declamation.

Some of the magnificent passages from Howe's speeches and letters lost more than half their force from being read in a hesitating voice and without any of the dramatic force that must have been one of the chief charms of the great 'Joe Howe.'

Such a criticism is a blessing to everyone concerned: to the lecturer, that he may either confine his attention to writing and publishing, or else take lessons in voice culture and management; to the public, that they may not be deluded. Deluded they generally are by most newspaper reports of sermons, speeches and lectures, not necessarily as to the matter, though even that is imperfectly reported, but especially as to the manner of the speaker. The most common delusion is the colorless report, which puts on the same level the prosy and the eloquent, the man of smiling platitudes and the master of his subject who always throws new light upon it, the conventional speaker who swells his voice with artificial effort and the naturally gifted speaker who buttonholes his audience in a mind to mind, heart to heart talk. Another delusion is the unfair apportionment of 'space.' Four or five men speak on some public occasion. The only one that really captivates the audience gets a less extended notice than the others, because, in the reporter's and editor's eyes, the others have a stronger political or religious or social following, and such susceptibilities must be taken into ac-

ter; the three C's, (character, conduct and conscience) do. The culture of the taste and the development of the soul are the only important things. This curious hodgepodge of self praise and imitation of Catholic pedagogical principles ought not to faze our usually fearless contemporary. After all, D. & W. are not infallible. W. has no right to choose his weapons and then run away if you choose others. Dr. P. and Prof. R. may not have convinced the public school teachers, but they certainly impressed the public with a distrust which interested apologies did not remove. The public school system fails still more completely in the three C's than in the three R's. "Development of the soul" forsooth! Is there one of their teachers that can describe the soul, its spirituality, its immortality? Why, their very text books of Psychology (which means "Science of the Soul") ignore the soul altogether. "Moral tone!" Look at the moral tone of your public boys and girls. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

To the author of "Sam Slick" belongs the distinction, unique for Canada, of having a literary club dedicated to his memory. This club marks the growing estimation of the work which he performed, and the fading away of the idea that he was simply a humorist. That he was a political philosopher who strove continually to broaden the outlook of his fellow countrymen, to make them look at politics from the standpoint of the Empire and not of the parish, and that he did so under the guise of a ready-witted itinerant Yankee peddler has not yet been fully realized. To those who know nothing of "Sam Slick" except the name we commend the reading of his works if they would enjoy an intimate acquaintance with one whose best work is full of practical, pithy sayings, occasionally rising to eloquence. No later writers show the intimate acquaintance with Nova Scotia, its scenery, its people and their manners, which Haliburton possessed. Then, too, Haliburton was the greatest of our Canadian humorists, and from this standpoint alone he should be studied.

Under the heading "A Double Danger" the Toronto News has an alarmist editorial in a recent issue. It professes to have inside information of a gigantic, brand-new, popish plot, engineered by the Catholic hierarchy, the "arrogant and meddling ecclesiastics of the Church of Rome." This is what the News says of what it terms the "subterranean agitation for separate schools."

"The Church of Rome is active in the politics of three great and contiguous divisions of Canada. In Ontario she is assailing the separate school settlement, long regarded as the bulwark of the minority, now apparently thought by the leaders of the church to be a restriction. In Manitoba a steady agitation is kept on foot against the Laurier-Greenway compromise of 1896. In the west the denial of autonomy is largely due to the demand of the hierarchy for a guarantee of perpetual separate schools in the future province. This is the time of seed-sowing. The people of Ontario are awakening into resentment but the professed politicians of both parties are preserving the anxious silence which is one of the signs of an approaching storm. . . . The harvest may be serious. A grave possibility is a combined Anti-Roman Catholic agitation ranging from the Rocky mountains to the Ottawa River." etc., etc.

Now the tempest in the Toronto News teapot, is due simply to this; some time ago the Board of Public School Trustees of Sturgeon Falls, Ont., entered into an agreement with the Board of School Trustees