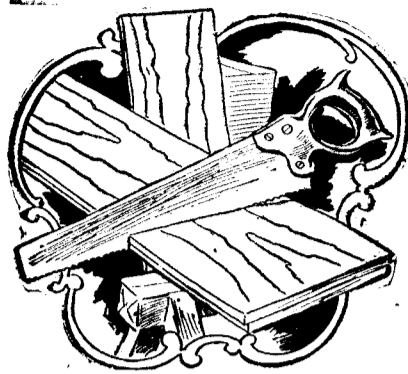


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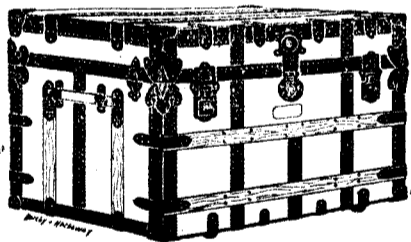
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Current Comment

(Continued from page 1)

this occasion. It was accordingly decided that the solemn function would be on Saturday last. This change was unfortunately forgotten or overlooked by the proof reader; hence the mistake in our last issue. The Monday morning papers kindly drew attention to this oversight. It was, then, on Saturday last, at 9.30 a.m., in the new chapel of St. Boniface College, that the funeral service was conducted by the Most Reverend Archbishop. It began by the clergy and students reciting the Office of the Dead, His Grace, assisted by Very Rev. P. Magnan, Provincial of the Oblates and Rev. D. Dandurand, O.M.I., sitting under a dais on the Gospel side, while Rev. J. Dugas, S.J., Rector of St. Boniface College, assisted by Rev. Ludger Arpin, S.J., and Rev. Lewis Drummond, S.J., acted as officiating priests on the Epistle side, in presence of a simple catafalque draped in black. The solemn Requiem Mass, which followed, was celebrated by His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface, with Father Dandurand as assistant priest, Rev. H. Speeman as deacon and Rev. M. Pierquin as subdeacon, Very Rev. P. Magnan, O.M.I., and Rev. A. Chossegros, S.J., being respectively deacon and subdeacon of honor. Monsignor Dugas, all the Jesuit Fathers and several other clergymen were present, as were also Chief Justice and Madame Dubuc, Judge Prendergast, Mrs. Bernier, several nuns from neighboring convents with their pupils and all the students of the college, who rendered the impressive Gregorian chant with admirable precision and verve.

In the last issue of our Catholic contemporary "The Leader", of San Francisco, the most widely circulated weekly on the Pacific coast, just four days before the earthquake and fire which devastated that beautiful city, the editor published the following leaderette, which now reads like a presentiment of the coming catastrophe.

LESSON OF MT. VESUVIUS

It is a desolate and disastrous Holy Week on the slopes of Mount Vesuvius. For the second time in a year the Italian peninsula is sorely tried by the forces of nature. How powerless those poor people must feel before the awful might of earthquake and volcano, the agonies of earth in labor, and the rushing of lava floods. Once before the earth trembled during Holy Week to teach a lesson to mankind. Who shall say that the people of Italy do not need such a lesson now? Many of them have wandered afar after strange gods. Perhaps the hell-fires of Vesuvius will speak to their hearts more convincingly than any human tongue. Already the people are appealing to Him at whose death the sun was darkened and the foundations of the world shaken. They are calling upon the Madonna to protect them from the withering flames, and the red-hot stones, and the searing ashes, that seem to be vomited out of the infernal pit. It may be God's way of bringing them to their senses and reawakening the faith in their souls. It is an hour of sharp and bitter trial for the afflicted ones, and they deserve our sympathy and prayers.

Not less strangely and unconsciously prophetic are the last words of the subjoined paragraph in the same issue of that same "Leader," April 14, Holy Saturday, the Eve of Easter.

A good subject of thought on this last day of Lent is our Easter duty. It is true that the time for complying with this Christian obligation extends for many weeks after Easter, but it is not a good practice to postpone its fulfillment. The Church is more lenient now than in earlier years. The season for receiving Holy Communion was formerly limited to the two weeks between Palm Sunday and Low Sunday. Now it covers a period of fourteen weeks. But it is not advisable to take advantage of this favor. Because the Church is a gracious Mother we should not show ourselves negligent children. Receiving our Risen Saviour on Easter morning is a beautiful Christian custom. Do not put off your duty till Whitsuntide or Trinity Sunday. Now is the acceptable time. Before Pentecost you may be judged by Christ the Lord.

And the judgement came to many on Wednesday in Easter week, the fateful April 18. May not some of the dead have put off their Easter duty till it was too late, far though the 18th was from Pentecost? Although we need fear no such convulsions of nature in this prairie land, yet death has a thousand ways of making victims and we have the Master's own word that he comes like a thief in the night, unheralded and unforeseen.

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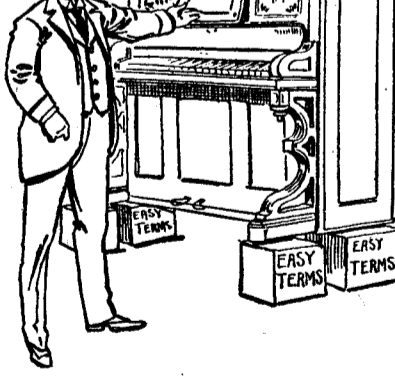
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