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SATURDAY, OCT. 31, 1903.

Calendar for Next Week.

NOVEMBER.

- 1—Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost. The feast of All Saints.
- 2, Monday—All Souls' Day.
- 3, Tuesday—Of the octave of All Saints.
- 4, Wednesday—St. Charles Borromeo, Cardinal Archbishop.
- 5, Thursday—Of the octave.
- 6, Friday—Of the octave.
- 7, Saturday—Of the octave.

CURRENT COMMENT

Of course the all absorbing topic during the past week has been the visit of the Apostolic Delegate. From his arrival on Thursday, the 22nd inst., till his departure on Tuesday, the 27th, we have heard on all sides an ever growing chorus of praise. His genial and easy manner, his flashing eyes and sweet smile, his utter forcefulness of self in his soul-stirring replies, his rare combination of affability the most cordial with discretion the most perfect, all this forms an aggregate of qualities that win confidence and love.

We say but little when we venture upon the assertion that no visit from any churchman ever was so heartily welcomed as this. The daily press of the city lavished their space on every detail of the manifold receptions and the tone of the reports was even more remarkable than their quantity. And, as the Telegram put it, "the culminating point in the almost triumphal progress of the Papal Delegate in Western Canada was reached" in the Catholic Club's reception on Monday evening. The applause that greeted His Excellency's carefully prepared reply but faintly accentuated the wisdom and heartiness of that reply. The text of it is worth treasuring up as a model of judicious discernment.

Remarkable, too, among all His Excellency's replies, is his talk to the pupils of St. Mary's Academy. His luminous and suggestive distinction between genuine womanly strength of character and the manishness of the "new woman" reveals a master mind, capable of delicate touches that remind one of St. Francis de Sales.

The fact that Leo XIII. made such a happy choice less than one year before his death shows how wonderfully the late Pontiff had preserved to the last that paramount gift of those who are truly "kings of men," viz., the faculty of discerning and divining beforehand the latent powers of a subordinate official. He rules best who knows men and therefore knows how to choose his assistants. True, the supreme ability of Mgr. Sbarretti was not "latent" for the Holy See. The Pope knew of his great work in Cuba, where he brought about, in twenty-one months, the abrogation of an iniquitous marriage law and the restoration to the Church of its rightful property. But here, in a

free country, the conditions are different, and it remained to be seen if the new Delegate would realize fully his altered environment. This he has done admirably and thus he has justified Leo XIII's predilection for him.

One happy feature of these never-to-be-forgotten five days was the ideal perfection of the weather. We seemed to be getting our warm and bright days now instead of during August and September.

Last Monday evening all Catholics, we believe, felt proud of the President of their club. He showed himself the right man for the great occasion. His gentlemanly dignity and self-possession, his command of English, his distinct pronunciation made the hearing of his address a real pleasure. And then how nicely he thanked the Press. Being an old pressman himself, on the staff of one of the best provincial papers in England, he knew how to make the most of this matchless opportunity. Here again we cannot do better than quote the Telegram:

Mr. Russell then handed out a few compliments to the people of Winnipeg, the Y.M.C.A. and the press, omitting, however, to mention the obligations the reporters have been under to him ever since Mgr. Sbarretti arrived, owing to the way in which he has dotted the "i's" crossed the "t's" and filled up the blanks in their reports.

When will the average address reader learn the importance of giving out his words loud and distinct, even to the last syllable of the last word? His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface may be cited as a model. It is not often that Archbishops have to read an address, but Mgr. Langevin set a splendid example in his cathedral last Sunday. Every syllable of his factual address could be heard with the greatest ease in the remotest corner of the crowded cathedral.

Though it may seem discourteous to point out a spot in the sun of last Monday's evening's triumph at the Y.M.C.A., we cannot refrain from animadverting upon Mr. C. W. Hanscomb's strange taste in the choice of his songs. He sings so well and his songs are so clever that we feel all the more grieved to have to point out that a song the point of which was "a man without a woman is a mighty poor thing" is not precisely the sort of ballad a gentleman should sing as his only contribution to honor a Delegate Apostolic, the Archbishop of all the Catholics there, and the numerous clergy, who, of course, have no wives. That sort of thing may go down with a purely Protestant audience, which is not squeamish about false principles; but it was a decidedly ungentlemanly thing to do under the circumstances. Many Catholics were heard to say, "What a strange choice of a song!" And His Grace of St. Boniface very properly showed his displeasure in the expression of his face. If non-Catholics forget that St. Paul said, "I say therefore to the unmarried, it is good for them if they abide even as I." (I Cor. 7: 8), and again, "Now concerning virgins . . . I say that it is good for a man so to be." (ibid. 25: 26); if these texts and that whole chapter are forgotten by our separated brethren, they are held in mind and practised by us. Moreover, is it not possible to entertain a distinctly clerical gathering without love songs? Are there not beautiful passages from oratorios? What about the "Lost Chord" or real gems of that kind?

Next week we shall begin the publication of an intensely interesting historical novel, so clearly founded upon fact that the fiction is merely a vehicle for conveying the true historic events.

The Delegate's young and amiable secretary, Father Stickney, is so modest that we only discovered by chance his right to a Doctor's cap. He won the doctorate of divinity in Rome after six years of theology which he began so young that he had to wait a couple of years for ordination. He is now only four and twenty. As his mother was a

Belgian, Doctor Stickney speaks French very well.

The following gracious acknowledgment appeared in the Morning Telegram of last Saturday:—

The reporter for the Telegram who was responsible for the account of Mgr. Sbarretti's reception at St. Boniface College on Thursday evening, writes as follows:—

The address in three languages of the Apostolic Delegate was correctly described as a remarkable effort. It must have struck readers of the Telegram, however, that the reportorial skill which presented next morning a fairly complete account, barring a few typographical errors of the whole proceedings, including the speech with its trilingual difficulties, was none the less an extraordinary feat.

Despite the brilliant men on the Telegram staff, however, it is only fair to acknowledge that the task of reporting any speech delivered in three languages was beyond the abilities of any one man. To Father Drummond the credit is really due.

When applied to by the reporters for the Winnipeg papers to help them out of their difficulty, they found that he had actually a complete note in shorthand in three different languages of the speech as delivered, and although tired with the manifold duties of a fatiguing day, he dictated a complete synopsis of Mgr. Sbarretti's speech; translating rapidly from his shorthand notes with a rapidity, ease and fluency truly marvelous to anyone who knows the difficulties of the task.

In the hurry and rush of providing copy for the printers, an acknowledgment of Father Drummond's courtesy was omitted, but it will be regarded as perhaps more astonishing because more technically difficult than the speech of the Delegate himself.

In this generous acknowledgment the Telegram reporter has unwittingly exaggerated the magnitude of the feat. Father Drummond's shorthand notes were not in three languages, but in one, the English shorthand of Isaac Pitman. He has had almost thirty years' experience of translating into English shorthand both Latin and French discourses.

SPEAKING ENGLISH.

Almost any one who speaks English might be put down successively in half a dozen places where English is supposed to be the mother tongue and hear as many dialects spoken, not one of which he would understand until it was interpreted. An old Lancashire worthy and a London lady were one day occupants of a railway carriage. The train had been waiting long at a certain station, and there was no appearance of it starting when the worthy remarked:

"They're a gly, tanglesome lot here."
"I beg your pardon," said the lady.
"I'm sayin' they're a gey daidlin' lot here."
"I really beg your pardon, sir."
"I'm observin' they are a vera dreich lot here the night."
"Really I must again beg your pardon, I don't comprehend you."
"I was just tryin' to say that the train was late."
"Indeed, sir, it is—very late," agreed the lady, and then collapsed.

SPEAK KINDLY NOW.

Speak your kindest while you may. Some day the occasion will no longer serve and you will long in vain to speak your tenderest feeling. The vanished hand and the voice that is still will not come at your call. You will lie on your lone pillow where the only answer to your cry will be your own pathetic tears. While you may! It is only a little thing—this kindness of speech, but it hath most beautiful memories. These little daily gentlenesses, how much they will mean by and by in that voiceless and empty afterwhile! Aye, how much they mean now! A sympathetic tone, a tender sentiment, the by-play of mutual confidence bring the good land that is beyond the stars to our own fireside.—Ex.



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