



## THEIR PROUD RECORD.

**WHAT THE OBLATE FATHERS ARE DOING IN SOUTH AFRICAN MISSIONARY WORK—FAITHFUL TO THE OLD FLAG THEY LEAVE THEIR PARISHES TO CARE FOR THE WOUNDED, THE SICK AND DISTRESSED.**

At the present time all eyes are turned towards South Africa. Everybody follows with concern and anxiety the sudden turn of a war which, it seems, will be long and terrible. The Boers are very numerous, brave, well disciplined, furnished with the best of arms, have great confidence in themselves and in divine Providence, which, they say, will never fail them, because they are fighting for justice, their rights and independence.

The theatre of war is precisely the parts of South Africa confided by the Holy See to the Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate. For 48 years they have labored with extraordinary devotedness, zeal and perseverance in an arid and ungrateful soil. The work was hard and laborious. For a long time they sowed in tears without reaping much fruit from their labors. The good seed, however, was not without fruit, and for the past 25 or 30 years in many places it has produced a most abundant harvest. In 1851 the first Oblate Bishop was consecrated. Rt. Rev. Bishop J. F. Allard, O. M. I., with a few Oblate Fathers were the only Catholic priests in those vast regions of Natal, Transvaal, Orange Free State, Bechuanaland, Zululand and Basutoland, and only a handful of Catholics scattered over those immense territories. Now, there are five Vicariates, with over 80 Oblate Fathers, a very flourishing monastery of Trappist Fathers, Christian and Marist Brothers, Nazareth, Mercy, Ursuline, and Kermaria Nuns. Of late years the numbers of conversions among both the white and black populations have been very remarkable; Catholic institutions have become very prosperous in all the principal centres of population. Let us give a few names of the institutions: At Johannesburg there is the largest and best equipped hospital in South Africa, a large boarding school for young ladies, under the direction of the Sisters of the Holy Family; near by a home for old men and women and an orphanage, under the charge of the Sisters of Nazareth; besides these, the Ursuline Nuns and the Marist Brothers teach more than 500 children in their schools.

At Bloemfontein the Sisters of the Holy Family have another boarding school, and day schools, having a large number of pupils. The same good works are carried out at Kimberley, where there is also a school for the negroes; the schools of the Christian Brothers are well attended. In the same city the Sisters of Nazareth have an orphanage for children, and a home for the old men and women. At Mafeking the Sisters of Mercy, and at Taungs the Sisters of Kermaria have also schools. At Newcastle, which has just been occupied by the Boers, without

striking a blow, the Dominican nuns possess a large boarding school for young ladies. Lady-smith and Estcourt, the headquarters of the British, have each an hospital and school, under the direction of the Augustinian Sisters. Pietermaritzburg is not behind the other cities for institutions; there is a college, under the direction of the Oblate Fathers, boarding school and orphanage, day schools for white children, Indians and Kaffirs, under the charge of the Sisters of the Holy Family, and a sanatorium under the care of the Augustinian Sisters. At Durban is another sanatorium, an asylum for old persons and for orphans, a boarding school for young ladies in a beautiful position, besides large and flourishing schools for Indian and Kaffir children.

These details are sufficient to show the progress that the Catholic religion has made in these countries whose inhabitants a few years ago were either pagans, infidels or heretics. But, alas! what will now become of those grand establishments? They will undoubtedly experience the fatal consequences of the war. In the cities already occupied by the troops some wards are entirely solitary on account of the emigration; but the hospitals are filled with sick and wounded; the schools are transformed into ambulances, and teachers into nurses and Sisters of Charity.

Many of the Oblate Fathers have been obliged to abandon the ordinary works of the sacred ministry and to devote themselves to the service of the soldiers to follow the armies as military chaplains. We find the Oblate Fathers in both armies, because in both there are Catholic soldiers. Rev. Father George Ogle, O. M. I., is with the British at Mafeking; Rev. Father Michael Morley, O. M. I., and the other Fathers of the residence at Kimberley, give their care to the soldiers at and around Kimberley; Rev. Father William Murray, O. M. I., and Rev. Father James Saby, O. M. I., perform the same duties to those at Ladysmith. Rev. Father Leon Marchal, O. M. I., of Johannesburg, is chaplain to a regiment of 2,000 Irishmen, who have taken the part of the Boers; Rev. Father Stephen Hammer, O. M. I., of the same city, is chaplain to a corps of 3,000 German volunteers.

The Oblate Fathers, on the battlefield, in the camp, amongst the soldiers as on their missions, will reap an abundant harvest of souls for Heaven. Father William Murray, O. M. I., at Ladysmith, has already administered the sacrament to 900 men, many of whom had not approached the sacraments of Penance since they had made their first Communion. Almighty God does all things for the salvation of souls; it is to be hoped that he permits the horrors of this war in order to bring many souls to everlasting life. May He spare our institutions which we have established with much labor and many sacrifices. May we ask our readers to offer a prayer for this intention?

PETITES ANNALES, O. M. I.  
December, 1899.

Extract from a letter of Rt. Rev. Bishop Ch. Jolivet, O. M. I.: "The Boers are already masters of a part of Natal. From the beginning the British abandoned to them Newcastle, where they are now established.

The Dominican nuns were obliged to fly thence in a hurry, leaving their beautiful establishments to the mercy of the Boers. The nuns left with many of their boarders, who were unable to return to their parents. For a few days they stopped at Dundee, whence 30 nuns and 30 boarders were obliged to seek refuge here at Maritzburg. They have rented a house into which they are all crowded together. A month ago they had one of the finest boarding schools in South Africa; now it is in ruins, and the nuns are in a sad state of poverty. At Ladysmith and at Estcourt the Sisters are still holding their own. The Sisters of the Holy Family at Maritzburg and at Durban are undisturbed and performing their various good works. Our missionaries and our French and German sisters are still respected. Father Wm. Murray, O. M. I., is gone as a military chaplain to the Irish regiment."

† CHARLES, O. M. I., Vic. Apos.

"Bishop of Belline."

Extract from a letter of Rev. Father Marchal, O. M. I.: "The Boers are brave, well armed, good horsemen and good marksmen. They are fighting for their independence and are determined to fight to the last man. The hardships of war are nothing for these hardy farmers. They know the country and can become invincible in guerilla warfare. They are already, with Free Staters, 60,000 strong, and will be 100,000 after the first victory. A regiment of 3,000 German volunteers, most of them artillerymen, have just started for the front. Rev. Father E. Hammer, O. M. I., is their chaplain. I am starting as military chaplain with 2,000 Irishmen, with their green flag. The corps Franco-Belge guard Johannesburg. The numerous Dutch railroad navvies are all going to the front. I had a flourishing parish, 400 Catholics near the church and 1000 in the district. All are either going to the war or to places of safety. Yesterday I had only 30 men and three women at mass. The Catholics who are going to fight have obeyed my instructions and have received the sacraments. During my absence my Kaffir servant will take care of my house and garden till my return. If you learn that I have been killed on the field of honor and in the performance of my sacred ministry, I presume you will be proud of me, and not forget to pray for the repose of my soul."

"LEON MARCHAL, O. M. I."

## DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION PRACTICABLE.

The Gasket.

Speaking of denominational education reminds us that The New World of Chicago, recently put the matter in a practical light that ought at least to make non-Catholics in the United States and in those of the provinces of Canada where Catholic grievances exist look at it. It says:

When narrow-minded people in this country speak of the Catholic position on the education question as something absolutely unjustifiable and entirely outrageous, they would do well to remember that, of the

three great Protestant nations in the world to-day, two concede this demand to their Catholic subjects, more or less fully, while the United States is the only one of the three which absolutely denies it. This, in itself, is a sufficient answer to the argument so commonly used that the thing is wholly impracticable, and for this reason alone, the claim cannot be entertained for a moment. It is no more impracticable here than it is in England or in Germany, and both of these nations have found a way of conceding it.

It is not very easy to feel profound sympathy for the reverend gentlemen whose woes are thus told by The Catholic Record, of Indianapolis; for they are simply being made to swallow the bitter draught they have been doing their best to force down the throats of Catholics at home:

"The Japanese government has adopted the American system of purely secular or godless education, and has withdrawn sanctions and privileges hitherto extended to schools in which any religion is taught. The Protestant missionaries find themselves in a peculiar dilemma in consequence of the law, for though in America they have always been the advocates and upholders of purely secular education, in Japan they have given religious instruction in their schools, and if they now make secular schools of them they will lose the support of the home boards, which refuse to appropriate funds for schools in heathen lands which do not teach the doctrines of their denominations, and without this support their schools, it is said, are sure to languish and die for lack of native attendance."

Will not our valued contemporary The Presbyterian Witness, which holds the thought of denominational schools in Nova Scotia in such holy abhorrence, publish a ringing article addressed to its co-religionists in Japan, convincing them of the abomination they are endeavouring to maintain in that country? For surely mere longitude cannot affect the moral character of denominational teaching, though it is a singular fact that that character is affected by the days of the week, denominationalism being, in our contemporary's opinion, a most excellent thing when you put on your Sunday clothes.

## THE CONVERSION OF DR. DE COSTA.

Catholic Register.

The New York Criterion, a clever and well-written paper of no particular religious complexion, except that it is non-Catholic, has the following to say in connection with Dr. DeCosta's conversion to the Catholic faith.

"Dr. DeCosta's change from Protestantism to Roman Catholicism was not unexpected by those who knew how deep was his resentment against the sanction of the 'Higher Criticism' implied in the admission of Dr. Briggs to the Episcopal priesthood. Like all such protests to the extremes it does not at all help the matter for the mass of Protestants who do not care to go over to Rome, because another Protestant is curious about the human amanuensis of

different bits of the Bible. What he has to say of the general sapping of belief of the vast number of people having no connection (or a barely formal one) with any Church is, however, significant."

It is significant and is so considered. That a gentleman of Dr. DeCosta's eminent ability, high position in the church he has abandoned, and acknowledged standing in social and literary circles, should leave all to obey the dictates of conscience leading him into the bosom of the Catholic Church, is sufficient to furnish food for thought to people interested in religious matters.

There is much to be learnt by non-Catholics from the fact itself, but more still from the masterly "apologia," written and published by Dr. DeCosta, who it would seem, is determined not to do things by halves, but as far as possible to be a light unto many of his brethren who, as he erstwhile was, are wandering in the darkness of doubt and uncertainty. In that remarkable document, the author states his conviction that the Catholic Church is the True Church, because she alone of all religious bodies professing Christianity, is capable of defending the truths of revelation and the written word of God against the violent attacks of unbelief, and of guiding and guarding her children against the pitfalls of error.

We may with profit, perhaps, to our readers, recall one notable passage which occurs in Dr. DeCosta's statement of his reasons for becoming a Catholic, because it demolishes the absurd contention that converts to the Catholic faith relinquish their free will. It reads as follows:

"It is time for candid non-Catholics to address themselves to the subject of infallibility, and learn that the notion that it interferes with individual liberty is as true as that the mariner's compass renders the sailor an abject slave. Without instruments and guidance, the sailor would be as free as the ancient Sidonian in his ivory galley with purple sails, without even an astrolabe to take the height of the polar star, dead-reckoning and guessing his way, gazing with strained, uncertain eye over the pathless sea and perilous shore. The freedom that the devout Catholic loses is the freedom to lose his way in storm, and night, and fog."

At the last meeting of St. Mary's court, Catholic Order of Foresters, officers were elected as follows: Chief Ranger, T. Jobin; V. C. R., P. Shea; T. T. D. Deagan; R. S. F. W. Russell; F. S. P. Marrin; trustees, G. Germain, R. Murphy and J. Malenfant.

The Redemptorist Fathers of Brandon have issued, as Information for their parishioners, a neat Calendar and Directory for 1900, which gives the date of the visits to each of the 12 missions served from Brandon, the various feasts, fasts, confession days, etc., during the year.

A Physician is not always on hand. Guard yourself against sudden coughs and colds by keeping a bottle of Pain-Killer in the house. Avoid substitutes, there is but one Pain-Killer, Perry Davis'. 25c. and 50c.

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**Northwest Review.**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1900

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCE-  
MENT.**

Next week we intend publish-  
ing cuts of the gold-mounted  
pencil case given as a premium  
to subscribers who pay up for  
1900 in advance. Those who  
pay before the lapse of thirty  
days after they receive their bill  
will be entitled to this premium.  
Look out for your bill.

**HOW THE NEWS COMES.**

Written for the Review.

"Hurrah! The victory's com-  
plete!"  
Ories herald one.  
"Nay, 'twas a very wise retreat,"  
Says herald two.  
"Alas! 'Twas naught but dread  
defeat,"  
Sighs herald three.

**CURRENT COMMENT**

The article on the Boer com-  
mander-in-chief, which was  
introduced with a comment last  
time, was then omitted  
by an oversight. We insert  
it this week with still greater  
misgivings as to the stature  
therein attributed to General  
Joubert.

The London Times, in an  
editorial of the 4th inst., says:  
"We cannot fail to note the  
extraordinary fullness of the  
information passed by the cen-  
sorship concerning the successes  
of Major-General French and  
Colonel Pilcher. It is possible  
to follow French's rather com-  
plicated movements with some  
detail, and Pilcher's have been  
made scarcely less familiar. It  
is a very striking contrast  
between this condition of affairs  
and that which obtains in con-  
nection with the greater events  
of the campaign. Do the  
authorities think it consistent  
with the dignity of the country  
to permit the suppression of  
news about the checks our  
troops have suffered, and then  
encourage the sending of copious  
accounts of relatively small  
successes? Of course, we know  
the solemn pretense of the mili-  
tary people, that it is important  
to keep the Boers in ignorance of  
our intentions; but, in the first  
place, the Boers seem always to  
know rather more about the  
inside of our camps than our  
generals themselves; and, in the  
second place, no excuse of that

kind is available in the case of  
past events."

Thus, even at its best, French's  
supposed victory was "a rela-  
tively small success." At its  
worst, that is, when the whole  
truth leaked out, it was a decid-  
ed check, with the loss of 70  
men taken prisoners, seven of  
whom are officers.

The war despatches which  
are cruel enough in that they  
raise hopes that are not realized,  
become still more nerve-racking  
when they pass through the  
hands of the scarehead writer.  
Yesterday the Free Press announ-  
ced in letters almost an inch  
high "White's Victory Com-  
plete"; this morning in letters  
just a trifle smaller, but still  
very conspicuous, the same  
paper asked, "Will White Hold  
Out?" This sort of thing is  
becoming monotonously painful  
and ridiculous.

Since the richly deserved  
wiggling we gave it last week  
the "Morning Telegram" has  
wisely kept silence on the school  
question. English-speaking  
Catholics, who contributed so  
largely to Greenway's over-  
throw, might have some excuse  
to be sore and indignant at the  
way too many French Canadians  
voted, although when the vote  
was analyzed, they acknowledged  
that their brethren in the  
faith had been shamefully de-  
ceived; but Conservative Protes-  
tants can allege no such pallia-  
tion for their anger at the French  
Canadian vote. The attitude of  
Manitoba Protestant Conserva-  
tives on the school question has  
been, with few exceptions, an  
anti-Catholic stand, which in no  
way deserves our gratitude.  
They ought to be only too glad  
that we gave them the very  
effectual assistance we did in  
the last election. It is, to put it  
mildly, very ungenerous on  
their part to complain that  
Catholics did not give them "the  
earth," when they had done  
nothing to deserve that Catholics  
should give them anything at  
all.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie the  
multi-millionaire, one of the  
best authorities in the world on  
applied mechanical science, re-  
cently said that "the foremost  
scientific college in the world is  
to be found in Montreal." The  
context shows that what he  
means is a very narrow field of  
science, namely, that which  
enables men to become, like him-  
self, managers of great industries.  
And in this the expensive  
machinery department of McGill  
University, set up by the munifi-  
cence of a born Catholic, Sir  
William McDonald, certainly  
ought to be able to produce  
good results, albeit we have yet  
to hear that many leaders of men  
like Carnegie have issued from  
any such institutions. In its  
way, then, and in its narrow  
sphere, this very high praise  
from the Iron King must be  
gratifying to all Canadians who  
are interested in the progress of  
steel and wheels.

What lends to Mr. Carnegie's  
opinion on such matters great  
weight in the minds of the un-  
thinking multitude is the fact  
that he started with nothing but  
brains and muscle and has made  
his 200 million dollar pile. At  
62 years of age he now informs  
the world that he is going to

distribute his vast wealth, to  
give it away, because,—he the  
multi-millionaire, has said it and  
therefore it must be true—"the  
man that dies rich is disgraced."  
On hearing such lofty disinter-  
estedness one would naturally  
suppose that Mr. Carnegie has  
some grasp of those basic truths  
without which life is not worth  
living. But such a supposition  
would be an egregious mistake.  
Mr. Carnegie is not even a theist,  
much less a Christian. His  
prophet is Mr. Herbert Spencer.  
In other words, he deems him-  
self like the brutes that perish  
utterly when they die. Mean-  
while, the next best thing to  
enjoying one's riches, perhaps  
the best way to enjoy them, is to  
give them away and be daily  
praised therefor, especially as  
when death does come and find  
him still the possessor of thirty  
or forty millions, he can always  
plead that he did not know the  
Grim Reaper would call so soon.  
Thus does a man, whose life  
before God and the entirety of  
Christendom is a dismal failure,  
lay claim to the highest kind of  
Christian virtue ("go sell all  
thou hast and follow Me"),  
while scoffing at Christianity.  
Albeit Mr. Carnegie is not aware  
of the fact, his absurd exaggera-  
tion about the rich man dying  
disgraced is an unconscious  
tribute to the teachings of the  
Catholic Church, which alone  
has erected the giving away of  
riches and the becoming poor  
for Christ's sake into the highest  
expression of her unworldliness.

**FRENCH RAILWAYS THE  
FASTEST IN THE WORLD.**

As late as twenty-five years  
ago the French people them-  
selves, while upholding the  
military discipline of their rail-  
way service, admitted readily  
enough that English and Ameri-  
can express trains were much  
faster than theirs. Now, how-  
ever, all that is changed. The  
"Scientific American" for Dec.  
30th last, in an editorial on the  
subject, says that "the French  
railroad system, which in point  
of size and importance ranks  
about fourth in those of the  
world, stands easily at the head  
of the list in respect of the  
number and speed of its express  
passenger trains. A recent  
tabulation of these trains shows  
that Le Chemin de Fer du Nord  
operates no less than forty-five  
trains a day with an average  
running speed, including stops,  
of from fifty to sixty miles an  
hour. Of these, eleven have a  
speed of 50 miles an hour, nine  
of about 51, eleven of about 52,  
three of about 53, ten of from 54  
to 57, and one train has a timed  
running speed of 60½ miles an  
hour." Doubtless Great Britain  
and the United States have a  
few trains of from 50 to 54 miles  
an hour, and there are in the  
United States two summer  
trains run at the rate of about 60  
miles an hour; but such speeds  
are very rare and not at all  
characteristic of the whole of  
the express service. As com-  
pared with the speed of the  
average express trains of Ameri-  
ca and even of Great Britain,  
these French results are certainly  
a great advance, especially  
when we are told by the best  
known expert on the question  
of express trains that these fast  
French trains are by no means  
mere racing outfits, but weigh  
from 150 to 300 tons.

**LIGHTNING CALCULATORS.**

A teacher in St. Boniface  
College, one day last week, read  
to his class certain extracts from  
an article on the wonderfully  
rapid calculations of Arthur  
Griffith, a new mathematical  
wonder from Indiana. One of  
the extracts was the following:  
"He handled the 33rd power of  
2 in four seconds, and when  
asked the 33rd power of 5,  
smiled, mumbled to himself  
during about five seconds, said  
"write" and then dictated, "116,  
415, 321, 826, 934, 814, 453, 125,"  
calling off the sextillions, quintil-  
lions, etc. He was then asked  
to multiply that by the 33rd  
power of 2, and he instantly  
said "one decillion." As soon  
as the teacher had reached this  
point in his reading two hands  
went up and two boys said  
simultaneously, "That's easy."  
"How, easy?" said the teacher.  
"Yes," one of the two boys re-  
plied; "the 33rd power of 2  
multiplied by the 33rd power of  
5 is the same as the 33rd power  
of 10, and the 33rd power of 10  
is 1 followed by 33 noughts."  
And the teacher soon saw that  
the boy was right, and that this  
particular performance of Arthur  
Griffith's looks very much like  
a "put-up job." At first sight the  
multiplying together of two  
such long rows of figures as the  
33rd power of 2 and the 33rd  
power of 5 looks like a tremen-  
dous undertaking, an impres-  
sion which Griffith increased by  
adding, "When you get two  
days off, you might find it for  
yourself." But our bright  
Manitoba boys, both natives of  
St. Boniface, found out the  
trick in two minutes.

**THE PREMONSTRATEN-  
SIANS.**

A Regina correspondent of  
one of our Catholic exchanges  
having lately written about  
the highly esteemed and deserv-  
edly popular pastor of the terri-  
torial capital, Rev. Father Von  
Heertum, as one of the "Rev.  
Fathers of St. Norbert," it may  
be well for the enlightenment  
of our local readers, to explain  
what is meant by that expres-  
sion. This explanation will, we  
trust, be all the more welcome  
because the parish bearing St.  
Norbert's name is only nine  
miles from St. Boniface.

The Norbertines or disciples  
of St. Norbert belong to a class  
of religious who bear the general  
title of "Canons Regular."  
During the first centuries that  
elapsed after the era of persecu-  
tions and Arianism had passed,  
the clergy of every large church  
were termed "Canons," as being  
entered on the list (the Greek  
word, kanon, meaning "list" as  
well as "rule") of ecclesiastics  
serving the Church. A more  
definite meaning was attached  
to the word in consequence of  
the efforts of Chrodegang, Bishop  
of Metz, in the eighth century,  
to revive a stricter discipline  
among his clergy. He formed  
the priests of his cathedral into  
a community, bound by a rule  
(kanon) under which they lived  
in common on the proceeds of  
an undivided property and  
recited the divine office in choir  
with the same regularity as  
monks. Many other cathedrals  
and large churches, thence  
named collegiate, organized  
themselves in the same way.

Gradually, however, in many  
places, the obligations, of relig-  
ious poverty were abandoned  
and the common property was  
divided into portions or pre-  
bends, one for each canon. In  
some cathedrals the community  
life instituted by Chrodegang  
was retained, and other separate  
institutions similarly ordered  
arose, such as the Augustinian  
Canons and the Premonstraten-  
sians. To the former belong, if  
we mistake not, the Canons  
Regular of the Immaculate Con-  
ception who have several houses  
in this diocese.

The Premonstratensians were  
founded by St. Norbert in 1119,  
at a place called Prémontré  
(i. e., foreshown), a lonely valley  
in the forest of Coucy, near  
Laon, 87 miles north east of  
Paris. There a monastery was  
built which remained the  
mother house of the order till  
the French Revolution; it is now  
in ruins. St. Norbert was soon  
joined by thirteen companions,  
to whom he gave the rule of St.  
Austin with certain constitu-  
tions framed by himself. The  
habit of the Norbertines being  
white, in England, where they  
had 34 houses before the dissolu-  
tion of monasteries by Henry  
VIII., they were commonly  
called White Canons. There  
were at one time a thousand  
Premonstratensian abbeys, many  
provostships and priories, and  
five hundred houses of nuns.  
But the Reformation, Joseph-  
ism in Austria, and the French  
Revolution sadly thinned their  
numbers. At present their prin-  
cipal abbeys are in Austria (of  
which there are three in Bohem-  
ia, the abbey of Strahow in the  
city of Prague being the deposi-  
tory of the relics of the founder  
of the order), there are several  
in Belgium and Holland, a few  
small houses in England, one  
in De Pere, Wisconsin, and a  
small community at Regina,  
consisting of Father Von  
Heertum and one lay broth-  
er. Another Premonstratensian  
priest is soon expected to join  
them.

**THE CENTURY AGAIN.**

We clip the following inter-  
esting correspondence from the  
Grand Forks Daily Herald, mere-  
ly premising that the corres-  
pondent is too cocksure when  
he says "it is a well known fact  
that Christ was actually born  
B. C. 4." It is probable, as  
Father Patrizi tries to prove in a  
volume of 300 pages; but it is  
not certain. Learned chronolo-  
gists have been for the last 300  
years, aware of this mistake; but  
they have accepted the conven-  
tional Christian era, because  
any change would be practically  
impossible.

A Constant Reader: Being a  
careful reader of your excellent  
paper I have of late noticed  
much discussion concerning  
the actual time when the twen-  
tieth century will begin. As  
far as I can see there are two

**Pyny-Pectoral**  
A QUICK CURE FOR  
COUGHS AND COLDS  
Very valuable Remedy in all  
affections of the  
**THROAT or LUNGS**  
Large Bottles, 25c.  
DAVIS & LAWRENCE CO., Limited  
Prop's of Perry Davis' Pain-Killer

opinions prevalent, one that the century began Jan. 1, 1900, the other that it will begin Jan. 1, 1901. These both, as numbering the centuries since Christ's birth, are absolutely wrong, since it is a well known fact that Christ was actually born B. C. 4, that is, when the world began measuring time from Christ's birth, about 530 A. D., it made a mistake in calculation of four years. This error was discovered about ten centuries later, but to avoid the untold inconvenience of the change it was never corrected. According to the true chronology, then, it is now 1904 years since Christ's birth, and we have been living in the twentieth century for at least three years. Hoping that Archbishop Ireland, Emperor William, His Holiness the Pope and Gene Fretz will take notice

**THE OBLATE FATHERS AND THE WAR.**

The Oblate Fathers are in the thick of the fight. They have missions in most of the towns and districts wherein hostilities are proceeding, as well as in adjoining territories. There are Oblate Fathers at Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Estcourt, Ladysmith, Newcastle, Oakford, Kokstad, and Umtata. Two of the Fathers at Pietermaritzburg and Ladysmith have charge of about a thousand Catholic soldiers. Bishop Gaughran, O.M.I., who has jurisdiction over the Orange Free State Vicariate, is speaking from the point of view of episcopal duty, in a curious position. His Vicariate extends not only over the Free State but likewise over British possessions, so that his spiritual subjects are in one place loyal to Great Britain and in another loyal to its enemies. Indeed, the Oblate Fathers are to be found as chaplains in the opposing camps. Whilst Fathers Murray and O'Donnell are with the British forces in Natal, Fathers Hammer, and Leon Marshal are with a portion of the Transvaal army. Father Ogle is shut up in Mafeking, and Bishop Gaughran and others in Kimberley with Mr. Cecil Rhodes. It is to be feared that many of the missions, especially those at Kimberley, Mafeking and Ladysmith, will suffer severely.—Catholic Tribune.

**THE BOERS AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.**

In the Transvaal Vicariate, which is under the charge of Father De Lacy, O.M.I., there are about fifteen Oblate Fathers, with some Trappist and Marist Brothers, Sisters of Loretto, Sisters of the Holy Family, Dominican nuns, and Ursulines. The Catholic population numbers over six thousand. Just half of them live, or we should rather say used to live, at Johannesburg, which possesses a fine church, a Marist boys' school, and a girls' school, taught by the Holy Family nuns, both these institutions training eight hundred pupils. The Sisters of the Holy Family, who are affiliated to the Oblate Congregation, have been placed in charge of the Government hospital, where the average number of patients is 250. The Boers preserve a great deal of the Calvinistic spirit of their forefathers. Still, thanks to the free and unrestricted immigration of representatives of other nationalities their exclusiveness in religious matters is rapidly diminishing. There often exists real sympathy for the Catholic priest where a few years ago hatred and distrust were strongly felt. The change is in a great measure due to the influence of the Catholic schools. The Boers knowing the excellence of these schools send their children to them, and the pupils, owing to contact with Catholic teachers, are able to remove many ridiculous notions respecting the Church from the minds of their parents.—Catholic Times

The continued absence of snow in the eastern part of the province is causing a decided scarcity in the visible supply of cordwood for fuel and if the "beautiful" fails to descend in reasonable quantity shortly there will be a shortage in wood, and a consequent increase in the price. A gentleman interested in the business who has just returned from a trip over the South-eastern railway, states there are thousands of cords cut and ready for hauling to the railway but that the roads have frozen up very rough and without snow it is practically impossible to deliver it at the siding.—Free Press, Jan. 5.

We claim that the D. & L. Menthol Plaster will cure lumbago, backache, sciatica, or neuralgic pains quicker than any other remedy. Made by Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd.

**THE BOER COMMANDER.**

Jean Joubert, the present commander of the Boer army in South Africa, is a native of Louisiana, where his family is one of the oldest in that State. His brother and a large clan of relatives are still living there.

Joubert is a giant, being about six feet nine inches in height, stoutly built. He fought on the Confederate side during the American Civil War. As Colonel, he commanded a regiment in General Dick Taylor's brigade and was one of Stonewall Jackson's most trusted officers.

After the close of the Civil War, Col. Joubert accompanied Gen. Loring to Egypt and took service under the Khedive. Thence he drifted to South Africa and organized the frontier police against the savage negro tribes. As far back as 1881 he already had complete control of all the Boer forces, Kruger in all the battles taking his orders from Joubert and obeying them without question.

General Joubert now has a bushy grey beard and a face tanned by the African sun. There is not an ounce of superfluous flesh on him, and he is as strong as an ox. He knows every inch of the Transvaal and adjoining countries, and now, in his sixty-eighth year, he is as full of fire and fight as he was in 1881, when first he defeated the British.

**EDGELEY'S WONDERFUL WELL.**

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

For many years Edgeley, N.D., has boasted one of the finest flowing artesian wells in the State. The water comes gushing out with high pressure in a stream as large as a man's arm. The well is 1,370 feet deep, and the water is too saline for domestic use. A beautiful lake has been made at a small cost, which in the winter time furnishes a splendid skating rink for the young people. The water has been placed under control, and is piped through the streets, affording a system of waterworks, the most cheaply of any town in the country.

For many years it has been known that the water was mixed with gas, but no effort had been made to separate the two till this fall. C. J. Sturgeon, a druggist, has at last succeeded in accomplishing this after many experiments, and now secures gas for lighting and heating purposes, in his store and residence. The separation of the gas is to be accomplished on a larger scale, and the streets and residences are to be lighted and the business houses all heated at a minimum cost, from the same source that furnishes the town a free water works system. The well is on the experimental farm, under control of the State Agriculture College.

A number of the larger farms in the State are equipped with such wells, and in the future their farmhouses may be lighted and heated at the cost of putting in gaspipes.

The installation of the St. Mary's Branch, No. 52, C.M.B.A. for 1900, took place at the meeting Wednesday evening. The following officers were installed by Chancellor George Germain: President, D. Smith; 1st vice-president, E. Cass; 2nd vice-president, L. O. Genest; recording secretary, R. F. Hinds; assistant recording secretary, J. L. Hughes; financial secretary, D. F. Allman; treasurer, Wm. Jordan; Marshall, W. J. O'Neil; guard, L. F. X. Hart; trustees, G. Gladnish, M. Conway.

**RAILROAD MEN TOO BUSY TO THINK.**

Railroad Gazette.

In the admirable round up of President Clark, which appeared in the Railroad Gazette last week Mr. Deming says "stockholders complain of sinecures, of improvements too aesthetic, of two men who do one man's work, in a corporation whose growing revenues have never yet felt the pressure of close economy." We have no sermon to preach from the several texts contained in this sentence, but would say one word about the matter of two men to do one man's work. We are not closely acquainted with the administration of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. There are, however, several railroads whose administration we do know about in a more or less superficial way, and we have yet to find a railroad in the United States that is not undermanned. So far as we can see, the one railroad system that comes nearest to being sufficiently manned is the Pennsylvania, and we venture to say that the somewhat ample force provided on that railroad is one of the most important elements of its economical and successful administration. So far as we can observe, every railroad runs too short handed for economy. The working staff is so absorbed in the routine of daily duty that it does not have time to study and think. Work is carried on in the old costly way because there is nobody who can sit down quietly and spend a few weeks or months carefully studying the elements of any given situation and devising a better way of handling the work. This is not a mere theoretical statement; it is the statement of a fact which often comes before us, and it is probable that nine out of ten general managers and general superintendents in the United States will confirm what we have said. It is often remarked that only the rich can be really economical, and it is a fact that only the adequately officered railroad can be worked with efficiency and economy. We should not wonder if it would be a good plan for the officers of the railroads to develop this theme a little in their reports, for the education of directors and stockholders.

That Hacking Cough is a warning not to be lightly treated. Pyny-Pectoral cures with absolute certainty all recent coughs and colds. Take it in time. Manufactured by the proprietors of Perry Davis' Pain-Killer.

**SOCIAL PROGRESS.**

From the Detroit Journal.

"She is certainly rising in the social scale."  
"Yes?"  
"Oh, yes, indeed! She is snubbed by a better class of people each succeeding year."

30 Miles to Procure Medicine. Winfield, Ont.

W. H. COMSTOCK, Brockville.  
DEAR SIR,—Am selling your "Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills" in this locality. I have customers who come 20 miles for the sake of getting Morse's Pills. This speaks for itself as to their value. I use them in our family with the most satisfactory results. My wife has been cured of "sick headache" by their use. We could not do without them.  
Yours, etc.,  
A. KRAMPEN.

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**Pain-Killer**  
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**PERRY DAVIS & SON.**

**For Small Boys.**  
The Sisters of Charity of St. Boniface, yielding to repeated requests from various quarters, have determined to undertake the management of a boarding-house for boys between the ages of six and twelve. Special halls will be set apart for them, where, under the care and supervision of the Grey Nuns, they will be prepared for their First Communion, while attending either the Preparatory Department of St. Boniface College or the classes of Provencher Academy. This establishment will be known as "Le Jardin de l'Enfance" (Kindergarten). The results already attained in similar institutions of the Order give every reason to hope that this arrangement will fill a long felt want.  
Board and lodging will cost six dollars a month. For the boys who attend Provencher Academy there will be an additional charge of fifty cents a month; and for those who take music lessons, \$3 a month.  
Bedding, mending and washing will be extra. The Sisters are willing to attend to these extras on terms to be arranged with them. The boys who attend the Preparatory Department of St. Boniface College will have to pay the tuition fees of the College.  
Applications should be made to  
THE SISTER SUPERIOR,  
GREY NUNS' MOTHER HOUSE,  
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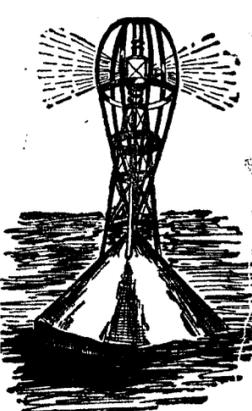
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**A Danger Signal.**

Just as the lightbuoy is a signal of danger to sailors and the red light to railway men, so has nature equipped individuals with danger signals of one kind or another when their physical condition is not quite right. It may simply be a tired feeling, a slight cold, weakness of the muscles, fickle appetite or some other sign—slight at first—which indicates that your condition is not a healthy one. If the danger signal is not heeded, serious results will follow and a complete collapse may occur. In nine cases out of ten the direct cause of the trouble is impoverished blood, or weak nerves. You need something to brace you up—to make your blood rich and your nerves strong. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills is the only medicine that can do that promptly and effectively. They strengthen from first dose to last.

Mr. John Siddons, London, Ont., says:—"I can speak most favorably of the virtue of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. They prove invaluable in strengthening up the system when debilitated. Having used them for some time past I can speak most favorably of their beneficial results. As an invigorator of the constitution they are all that they claim to be."

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