



**The Northwest Review**

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY  
WEDNESDAY  
WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL  
AUTHORITY.  
At 184 James Avenue East.  
WINNIPEG.

Subscription, \$2.00 a year.  
Six months, \$1.00.

P. KLINKHAMMER,  
Publisher,

THE REVIEW is on sale at the following place: Hart & McPherson's, Booksellers, 364 Main street.

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Made known on application.  
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23.

**CURRENT COMMENT.**

**Scott's Grave.** Much ado was made last Thursday and Friday about the finding of some

human bones near the south corner of Portage Avenue and Main Street. Several old timers looked wise and averred that these might well be the remains of Thomas Scott, who was put to death on the 4th of March, 1870. One gentleman's theory was that Scott's body was stolen and buried under the Red Saloon, which used to stand just about where the bones were found. This gentleman, therefore, was "disposed to say without hesitation that the said remains were, without doubt, those of Thomas Scott." But when the most important part of the skeleton, viz., the head, was discovered, he admitted that it could not be Scott's, though another man thought it was, owing to the prominence of the front teeth. The bones that have been unearthed are most probably (in spite of some learned remarks about receding foreheads, as if many whites had not that peculiarity) the remains of some Indian buried long before 1870. The fact that no trace of clothing appeared makes this view highly probable. Twenty-six years in our soil could not reduce the clothing to dust. At any rate Thomas Scott's remains have never been interred there. One who has every reason to know states positively that Scott was buried outside the limits of both Winnipeg and St. Boniface.

**The True Culprits.** In the report of this "ghastly find" we notice with pleasure how the Free Press, which is nothing if not a reflex of public opinion, lifts the blame of those unfortunate events in 1870 off the shoulders of the French halfbreeds. However, it shifts the burden upon those who are not the chief offenders. "Bob O'Lone," says our contemporary, "is credited with having been a Fenian and an annexationist, and one of those who were really to blame for the disturbances rather than the French halfbreeds." "Those who were really to blame for the disturbances" were the insolent, overbearing roadmakers, surveyors and leaders of what was then called "The Canadian Party." Rev. Dr. Bryce, though not particularly partial to the French halfbreeds, says in his "Two Provisional Governments in Manitoba": "Suffice it to say that the hasty action of the Canadian Government in sending roadmakers and surveyors to the North-west, before the transfer had been made, the unwise conduct of a number of these forerunners, and the natural fear of the Red River people that their interests would be neglected, account for the rising." The land hunger with which some of the Canadian party staked out farms for themselves was one of the most potent factors in the disturbances. "It is notorious," says Mr. Begg ("History

of the Red River troubles," p. 24), "that the principal one in this movement, the leader of the so-called Canadian party, staked off sufficient land (had he gained possession of it) to make him one of the largest landed proprietors in the Dominion." Naturally, the halfbreeds objected to this wholesale robbery. Mr. George Stewart, Jr., in "Administration of the Earl of Dufferin," writes: "Rumors of all kinds prevailed. It was said that the plots of ground, where some of the halfbreeds had dwelt and reared families for fifty years, would be torn from their possession by the Government of Canada, and themselves cast adrift; their rights to the soil would be invaded, their houses taken from them, enormous taxes would be levied, and the most absolute tyranny forced upon them. They would be bought and sold like slaves. With these views firmly established in the very hearts of the populace we cannot wonder at the popularity of the movement which was created to resist to the death what some called Canadian coercion. Our only astonishment is, all things considered, that there was not more blood spilted.... The mad freaks of Colonel Dennis and Captain Cameron did not a little to increase the hostility of the forces of Riel, and Mr. Macdougall's presence on the border was a constant menace to the rebels, who, with wonderful forbearance, committed scarcely any violence to him or his immediate staff." Finally, Lieutenant-Governor Archibald testified before the Commons committee: "In fact the whole of the French halfbreeds, and a majority of the English, regarded the leaders in those disturbances as patriots and heroes; and any government which should attempt to treat them as criminals would be obliged to disregard the principles of responsible government."

**Dumb Dogs.** Though Archbishop Ireland's commendation of Catholic schools is really a very striking pronouncement, as will be seen from a glance at it elsewhere in this issue, though it is in every sense an epoch-making document, the general press despatches have, with their usual one-sidedness, failed to notice it. Keenly alive as our opponents ever were some years ago to seize upon and distort certain other sayings and doings of the great Archbishop of St. Paul, they will be sure to ignore this one, because it goes counter to their pet views on public schools. It is the old story of the conspiracy of silence against the Catholic Church.

**Clerical Claptrap.** Akin to this is the other conspiracy of shibboleths, an instance of which occurred last Thursday when the corner stone of the public school at Selkirk was laid by the grand master and officers of the grand lodge of Manitoba with Masonic ceremonies. On that occasion an Anglican clergyman said "it was most appropriate that the Masonic body should be asked to lay the corner stone of a building intended for the purposes of education. He said that Masonry itself was of great educative value. He also held that the object of true education and of Free Masonry were the same, viz., the upbuilding in our people of character, which is the one enduring element in all life and history." Doubtless there is a grain of truth in this otherwise misfire paradox; it is quite true that the upbuilding of character is the object of all education worthy of name, and the promoters of our public school system are sorely in need of such a wholesome reminder, seeing that the system generally ignores the religious foundation of all character-building; but what in the world is the educative value, what the influence on character of a secret society? We take it that character here means moral excellence, and moral excellence implies the freedom of the children of God and the sincerity of absolute frankness, two

qualities which it is the essential purpose of Masonry to destroy. It is a system of lying shibboleths in which its victims bind themselves blindly to rulers bereft of all legitimate authority, and thus abdicate their moral freedom. It is a cowardly system of false brotherhood that excludes from its fraternal (?) attentions all who are not Masons, and pins the brethren to an unmanly and puerile secrecy. No wonder, then, that the Vicar of Christ should have branded it, not only as anti-Catholic, but as contrary to natural ethics. Socrates and Cicero, heathen though they were, would have spurned it as an assault on their manhood. And yet, in this hour of trial, when the local government is professing a wish to conciliate the Catholic minority, the solemn tomfoolery is linked to the sacred cause of education with the tawdry tinsel of clerical claptrap. A strange way, indeed, of reconciling Catholics to the public schools.

**Mummery.** We heartily congratulate the C. M. B. A. on having rejected the proposal, made in their late Convention, to introduce grips and pass-words. Such devices are unnecessary and childish in the extreme. Catholics ought to have nothing to do with this Masonic mummery. Other Catholic societies have already copied too much of the paraphernalia of forbidden lodges. Let the C. M. B. A. remain free and frank in all its ways. It has nothing to be ashamed of; it counts the light of day.

**HIS GRACE'S RETURN.**

With heartfelt joy do we welcome home our chief Pastor and Father in God, the Most Reverend Archbishop of St. Boniface. His Grace has visited the tomb of the Apostles in Rome and has enjoyed the privilege of a special audience from the successor of the Head of the Apostles. From recently reported interviews with our beloved Archbishop we gather, as we also do from private letters, that the Holy Father has fully approved the stand Mgr. Langevin takes and that this stand has not changed since His Grace left us last July. As we go to press the train bearing to our city the Archbishop and his suffragan, Bishop Grandin, has not yet arrived. We know His Grace will gladden the hearts of all his flock by his happy and speedy return in excellent health. On his arrival he will be besieged by a host of friends and admirers plying him with questions innumerable; but we trust those friends will remember that His Grace's leisure is, especially at the present moment, almost a vanishing point.

**THE IRISH RACE CONVENTION.**

The newspapers are just to hand containing lengthy reports of the proceedings at the great Irish Race convention held in Dublin during the first days of this month, and it is plain to see that the gathering was a great success. It is true that the two factions known as the Redmondites and the Healyites held themselves aloof, and through their organs did their best to make the affair a failure, but the strength and truly representative character of the delegates from the United States and the British colonies was so evident that all the attacks made on them from the sources we have mentioned were rendered harmless, and the convention spoke with a weight and authority which will undoubtedly cement the people at home into one compact force once more and eventually bring about the unity of the parliamentary representation. The delegates from abroad were not committed to either of the various sections, they went into the convention prepared to go earnestly into a consideration of all the points at issue, and they have declared in the name of the Irish race that dissension must cease and that Messrs. Redmond and Healy and their followers are in the wrong. These gentlemen, of course, sneer at the convention, and profess their intention of still following in the

path which they have trod, some of them for several years past and others for shorter periods; but it may confidently be expected that the people at home will, at the first opportunity, teach them a lesson, and will return to parliament a body of men really devoted to Ireland's best interests, united under and loyal to the leader who may be selected by the majority. Although we in this part of the country were not represented, still we may, as Canadians, congratulate ourselves on the fact that the delegates from the Dominion were accorded the place of honor in the convention. This was as it should have been, for did not the gathering meet at the instance of a Canadian archbishop, the Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, of Toronto? Amongst the representatives from Canada who numbered twenty-three in all, were some of our best known public men and it is evident that they made a splendid impression. For all these reasons then, Irish sympathizers all over the world, and especially here, may well rejoice that the convention was held and that, practically speaking, union is once more established in Ireland.

**VIEWS OF ARCHBISHOP IRELAND.**

When the late lamented Archbishop Tache was struggling to maintain the constitutional liberties of the Catholic minority in regard to education and, in clear and moderate language, defining the position of the Church on this question, the enemies of our cause loved to quote the alleged attitude of his grace, Archbishop Ireland, as contradicting that of his episcopal brother in Manitoba.

This journal fully met and refuted the statements made by our opponents and pointed out that the position of the two Archbishops, while the same in spirit, varied immensely in law. Archbishop Tache was contending for a legal and constitutional right which had been confiscated, while the Archbishop of St. Paul was endeavoring to effect a compromise with the authorities whereby his people might be relieved from paying a double burden, but one which those authorities had a legal and constitutional right to impose. Because the Archbishop of St. Paul, who had no right in law, proposed to make certain concessions to obtain a privilege from those who had a legal right to refuse it, our enemies in Manitoba argued that His Grace of St. Boniface should be content to waive the legal status which the constitution gave to the minority and accept any crumb of relief which the majority would be prepared to offer as a settlement. They labored industriously to show that Archbishop Ireland's views on the importance of religious education were much more moderate than those of our late Archbishop. They went so far as to say that the Archbishop of St. Paul did not look upon religious instruction as essential in the education of the children of the Church. While these statements were being made anent the attitude of the St. Paul prelate, His Grace and his clergy were maintaining at tremendous sacrifices parochial schools in which were educated the children of the diocese. We would refer those who believed, or professed to believe, that the Archbishop of St. Paul did not look upon religious instruction as essential in the education of Catholic children, to his recent pastoral letter, which we publish in another column of this issue. In that pastoral his Grace says:

"The Catholic school—the future will prove it beyond a doubt—is the most fruitful of all institutions for the preservation and perpetuation of the faith of this country."

We quite agree with our contemporary, the (Chicago) New World, when it says:

"It seems to us, with all respect, that the Archbishop might even have gone a step further and claimed that the past has proven beyond a doubt that the Catholic school is the most fruitful of all institutions for the preservation of the faith in this country. This has been abundantly proved, and is being proved every day."

The absence of the Catholic school in many parts of the United States has been the direct cause of the loss of the faith of thousands upon thousands of Catholic children. It is nothing unusual to meet with men and women in that country

bearing time-honored Irish Catholic names and yet lost to the faith. Had they not been thrown into the public school in the absence of anything better, they would have in all probability been saved to the faith instead of being, as they are now, tossed upon the turbulent sea of doubt and error, or irreligion.

**MATTERS POLITICAL.**

From a Manitoba point of view the most interesting incident of the week in connection with the political situation has been the frantic effort made by Mr. Joseph Martin, backed by some of his friends, to secure the vacant portfolio of minister of the interior. In the language of the Tribune the members of the cabinet have decided that Winnipeg's ex-representative is "impracticable." This is what everyone might have expected and we can hardly understand how Mr. Martin could have imagined that his claims to the position would be considered. It seems, however, that he really did believe that he could be taken into the cabinet and now his dream is over, even his strongest political enemies must feel a certain amount of pity for him, a feeling, though, which will be tempered by the reflection that he has only himself and his peculiar methods to thank for the position in which he finds himself.

The letters of the Governor-General to Sir Charles Tupper show that the late Government was practically dismissed from office. They show also that the representative of Her Majesty in this Dominion took ground which can hardly be said to be in accordance with British precedents and gave some very strange reasons for doing so. There is little doubt that the whole matter will be thoroughly discussed in Parliament and it is hard to see how Lord Aberdeen or his present advisers can satisfactorily meet all the criticism with which they will undoubtedly be assailed.

Another letter which has been laid before Parliament after much pressure had been brought to bear, and which has excited considerable comment, is the epistle of Major-General Gascoigne to Major-General Cameron asking the latter for his resignation as the head of the Kingston Military College. It would appear that the commander of the Canadian forces wrote the letter very unwillingly, but acting under orders, and it will be interesting to hear why such orders were given. We believe that Major-General Cameron is a relative of Sir Charles Tupper and some people are connecting this with his hasty removal from office. The matter has an ugly look and will bear thorough investigation, especially in view of the fact that there seems to be no doubt that the dismissed official was in every way fitted for his position and that the college attained a high standard of efficiency under his rule.

Preliminary objections in the Macdonald election petition were heard last week and dismissed. The argument in the Winnipeg case has commenced and is still in progress. It is difficult to understand what the promoters of these petitions hope to gain. It is not likely they will be successful, and even if they are, the present member will undoubtedly be returned again. We should not be surprised if the Winnipeg case were withdrawn in view of the unsatisfactory outcome of the visit of Mr. Martin and his friends to Ottawa.

Truly the present government seem to have prepared for themselves a peck of trouble by their action last session, and they now, no doubt, fervently wish that they had not carried their obstructive tactics so far as they did. Above all they must wish that the school question had been settled by the late government, and it may be taken for granted that if they had the time over again they would do their best to so arrange matters that they would not have to deal with such a troublesome subject. With that, and a few other questions which are the result of their old time obstruction, out of the way, they would now have comparatively smooth sailing, instead of the stormy and tempestuous voyage which they are experiencing and which threatens still worse for the future.

The member for Lisgar, in his paper, the Tribune, claims to have had a good deal to do with the discovering of alleged scandals arising out of the late government's methods of dealing with convict-made binder twine. Although he, of course, puts the matter in the very worst light there does not seem to be much reason for his frothy denunciations or for the scare headlines under which they were given to the public. If



