

Echo de l'Ouest, 18 Feb 1885

“Do what you ought to do whatever may happen”

Demeules & Laramee, Proprietors; E.R. Dufresne, Editor

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Additional translators for this project would be appreciated.)

Minneapolis

The ceremony of the receiving of the Ashes [Ash Wednesday] took place this morning. There was a large gathering of the faithful in our two French-Canadian churches in this city.

The civic elections which must occur in the spring already have begun to enliven spirits.

If one believes the opinions of those concerned with commerce and finance in the city, business in general is on the “eve” of returning to its normal course after several months of the depression we’ve had.

After having caused to tremble in London, Canada, New York and other centers of the East, suddenly these good “movers and shakers” [dynamiteux] now turn their eyes to the West. That they would do nothing less than enliven the Tribune of Minneapolis, the mills of Pillsbury as well as the English Consul goes without saying. It then will proceed to Winnipeg which it will reduce to atoms. [This was a difficult translation. I gather they are saying the Eastern interests will enliven our economy. In keeping with the “dynamite” an earth shaking vocabulary, they would reduce Winnipeg “to atoms”.]

A grand banquet will be given shortly in this city for members of the legislature. The city Council and Chamber of Commerce have together nominated committees to make preparations and assure success.

The citizens of South Minneapolis held a well attended and enthusiastic assembly on Monday evening to discuss the proposed construction of a bridge on Franklin Avenue.

The annual contest in elocution of the University students took place last Friday evening. An elite auditor [a master judge] attended the meeting which was of great interest. He ended by choosing a candidate to represent the University of the state contest which takes place in April in St. Paul, where an orator will be chosen to represent Minnesota at the Grand-Oratorical completion of all states taking place in Ohio in May. The subjects treated were all of current and the greatest interest... There were seven contestants and all won the merited applause of the audience. The prize [the “palm”] was awarded to M. F. N. Stacy.

The constant menace and recent outrages committed in London and elsewhere have attracted this mob, the general reprobation of friends of order in the world and the most severe condemnations by civil and religious authorities.

It has been one hundred years the 12th of February since the first bale of cotton was exported from New Orleans to England. This important event was celebrated with great pomp last

Thursday at the universal exposition now on in the capital of Louisiana.

Disastrous Fire and Loss of Life

Another appalling catastrophe. Another horrible human slaughter. Last Thursday before 8 o'clock in the evening, the fire broke out in the Blackley Insane Asylum in Philadelphia, reducing to ashes a considerable part of their vast establishment and burning alive 18 mentally sick victims in their cells. It is impossible to describe the horrors of that night ever so disastrous for the inhabitants of Philadelphia.

The asylum held over 600 inmates and there were at the time of the fire sixty crazy inmates in the cells at the heart of the building where it began, of whom 20 were on each of three floors. At the first alarm, the guards ran to open the cells and release the poor unfortunates. They managed to accomplish their job of rescuing on the first two floors, but when they arrived at the third, it was impossible to reach the cells as the flames enveloped that part of the building and they had to flee without bringing help, hearing behind them the cries, the yells of pain, the screams of those whom the fire had already reached.

James Burke, 57, one of the 18 victims, had killed three companions during his time in the asylum; he had been in chains for 20 years. Another, John Herriges, 48, had been found in 1870 in a hut on Lombard Street, Philadelphia, where he had kept his parents in chains for 20 years.

The property loss was \$150,000.

Pope Leon XIII celebrated 27 December his forty-eight year as a priest.

It is an important issue among the merchants of Minneapolis that a new route of communication be given the residents of Fort Snelling to assure the commerce of the inhabitants of the Fort, which has risen to, it appears, \$350,000 annually, of which the major part is with St. Paul.

The construction of a branch line would have interesting views and it is quite probable that this project will begin early in spring.

Deceased

In this city, February 4, Madame Alexandre Legault, age 25, died after an illness of twelve months, suffered with Christian acceptance.

She left to suffer her loss her husband and three young children.

The funeral took place February 6 at Notre Dame of Lourdes amid a gathering of family and friends

Madam Legault was the sister of Madame Louise Tuscan of Minneapolis.

Births

In Minneapolis February 13 a daughter was born to Dame Theopile Baudette.

In St. Pierre les Becquets, Quebec, January 22 a son to Dame Joseph Rousscan.

The Mind of Others

The Episcopalian Church recently held a congress in Detroit where they discussed the establishment of confession in that sect.

A protestant newspaper, *The Face Press* of Detroit, reports: "It was a lightning bolt for the majority of the Protestants here to note the near unanimity with which the Episcopalian clergy at their last congress declared in favor of private confession.

“In truth nearly all the arguments made were regarding the timing and practicality. The basic philosophy supporting it was clearly approved and its spiritual authority recognized. The Catholic Theologians themselves had difficulty speaking with more eloquence on the benefits of the practice than those clergymen of the Episcopalian congress who were its defenders. (From the *Journal des Trois-Rivieres*.)

Patriotism and Union

Each nation carries a secret fire, ardent and sacred which attaches it to the soil of its birth, makes it venerate its saints and ancient tradition of ancestors, preaches moderation in its dissensions and fortifies it, embraces it with a heroic ardor if the enemy is at its gates. The clan of national piety, which the bards-of-old were pleased to sing their plaintiff elegies and which poets celebrated in their pompous verse is the echo, the fruit of a sublime virtue which each citizen hold hidden in the folds of his soul, and which supports and cultivates the heart of the true patriot. This indulgent virtue, readers, you understand, is patriotism. Patriotism is for all ages, for all generations, it engenders the great feats of arms and the heroic actions; no barrier can stop its march and whatever be its obstacles, the pitfalls and the numerous difficulties it creates, it tames them, it renders them surmountable, and, if ever outnumbered and the fortune of combat is fatal to it, it sacrifices itself generously on the altar of the fatherland and marks a glorious phase in the annals of the nation. It is that which in the meleé, gives strength to the weak, boldness to the timid, and bravery to the cowardly, it makes them face death with a firm eye and a calm face, happy that they are sealing with their blood the destined saints of the fatherland. If we consult history, we will see that in the most remote times, patriotism was honored and even ranked with the divinities, they raised altars to it, made offerings to it and how many voluntary immolations have been given it. The memory of Leonidas and his three hundred Spartans in the defile of Thermopyly is still very much alive in our memory, no need to mention. Among us French-Canadians, we also have our heroes, our national glories. Our people are still young and radiant acts, fruits of a sublime and ardent patriotism number in the hundreds. From Dollard and his brave men [*] to the grand and glorious Montcalm. What a [more] beautiful page for the history of our country than the bravery of our Canadian Leonidas and, if the last ruins of the old fort [at Quebec] can retell to us the final words for these noble martyrs of the French-Canadian nation, they would be imprinted with the purist patriotism and self-sacrifice the most complete. Patriotism has not only manifested itself at the feast of battle, but one finds it also in the walls of parliament. Who does not remember the efforts of Frontenac and Beauharnois. We have our heroes of war and of letters, and in either case, what was the great motive of all their work, of all their fatigues and vigils they imposed on themselves. It was patriotism, the great devotion to the cause of French Canada. For us, descendants of these gallants who sacrificed so generously their lives to maintain her and affirm our religion, our language, our nationality, let us lean to keep intact and free of soiling the sacred heritage they willed us. They have sealed with their blood the sublime pact of nationality where they have placed their fate under the powerful aegis of the God of Nation. But alongside their patriotism marches a virtue no less sublime and of primary use for advancement and the success of the great national cause: I wish to speak of union, of good accord – Yes, we are united in the field of battle, grouped in close ranks close to the vigilant eye of their chief, they are united in the parliaments, in the public assemblies and always they have been successful, sometimes they have returned to combat, harassed, exhausted, broken, but never vanquished. What a source of enlightenment for us! Let's follow their footsteps, copy their virtues, and above all let us be friends and we will soon see the foreigner recognize our strength as nationality. For, we don't need to hide it, we need the tightest unity, the tightest one [repeats] and the absolute necessity to become again a

whole number [This is whole as opposed to fraction. I think it may be translated as "a unity".] If we wish to give value to our legitimate pretensions among governments which run the country. To have the prestige to which we have a right among the heterogeneous nationalities which surround us, we have to rid ourselves of the disagreement which undermines our society at its base and inevitably will make it collapse, caught in the fall of dreams, pretention and hopes. Let us show ourselves as the zealous possessors and the faithful guardians of the sacred tradition bequeathed us, and we will not have to deplore the loss so painful which awaits all peoples torn apart by divisions and prejudice. Let's not have shame about ourselves which French Canada exhibits and tries to personify as soon as possible the type of perfect citizen, the true gentleman [I believe a criticism of trying to Anglicize]. Let us speak our language and force ourselves to acquire useful acquaintances and make ourselves knowledgeable of the glorious past of our Canada. Favor ourselves as often as possible with the formation French-Canadian clubs of which the principal purpose is to enjoy oneself and instruct, to make known and appreciate our natural glories and reunite under the same banner all our population, to rid ourselves of dissensions and quarrels and, so, strong in number, we will be able to march securely and courageously to the assertion of our legitimate pretensions and of our sacred rights, and we will have the satisfaction of not having forfeited the dictates of ardent patriotism and interests that our ancestors left us intact.

V. Vinet

[Can't find any Vinets in the US 1880 or 1900 censuses except in Louisiana where there are many. The 1890 census was destroyed.]

[*Adam Dollard des Ormeau, an early colonist and soldier died in 1660 at the Battle of Long Sault. In 1635, He was leading a group of sixteen Frenchmen, aided by about forty Huron, who were overwhelmed by seven hundred Iroquois warriors. Louis-Joseph de Montcalm-Goron, Marquis of Saint Veran, commanded the French in the Battle of Quebec, 1759, where both he and the opposing general Wolfe died.]

Three large cities of the U.S. have Irish Catholics as mayors: Mr. J. Grace in New York, Mr. O'Brien in Boston and another O'Brien in St. Paul, Minnesota.

So honors to the Irish and the Catholics of the United States!

In December 1882 Leon XII will celebrate his fiftieth anniversary as a priest. The Catholic Societies of Italy have already begun to prepare to make the anniversary the occasion of lavish manifestations of loyalty to the Holy See.

Lt. Col. Timothy Sheehan, of Albert Lee has recently been appointed by the government in Washington to be agent for the White Earth Indians.

A sensation was created last week in Washington by the confirmed news that Mademoiselle Constance Edgar, daughter of Jerome Bonaparte, will take the veil about Easter tide.

[Napoleon's brother Jerome came to the US and married Elizabeth Patterson. He later had the marriage annulled and returned to France. Their son Jerome V lived in America and was an army officer.]

The *Northwester Chronicle* of St. Paul, in its last week edition, put the Catholics of Minnesota on warning against a "lady of business" of the highest level, disguised in costume of a Franciscan sister, who collected alms for the Little Sisters of the Poor in St. Paul. This false sister rigged out in religious clothes has already, it appears, succeeded in collecting a considerable pile of money among the Priests and laity of the diocese.

It goes without saying to recall on this occasion that in the diocese of St. Paul, among

others, no Sister can collect money or any other things without having an "ad hoc" letter by the ecclesiastic authorities.

It is reported that in the USA there are 16,000,000 children of school age, but only 10,000,000 attend. The number of teachers is 290,000 and the annual cost of schools is \$91,000,000.

Of 32,000 Indians in the Dakota Territory, 30,000 speak English.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Larpenteur and their daughter Minnie of St. Paul, and Mr. Charles Larpenteur of Minneapolis left last week to visit the Exposition in New Orleans.

Personal tax collections in St. Paul was very light this year. Of 7,000 names, only 1,000 have satisfied their obligation and there are only nine days of grace remaining to pay the tax.

St. Paul

Diocese of St. Paul Rules for Lent

1. All days of Lent except Sunday are days of fast.
2. The precept of fast implies abstinence in food with the exception of one meal a day and it does not permit meat at that meal.
3. However, by special permission, meat is permitted in this diocese at a single meal every day, except Wednesday and Friday every week, one Saturday of the week, and the four last days of Lent. It is by a special indulgence from the Holy See that it is permitted all the Saturdays of Lent this year as for all the Saturdays of the year.
4. It is forbidden to have fish and meat at the same meal.
5. Necessity has authorized the use of animal fat and lard to prepare food.
6. A snack not exceeding a quarter of an ordinary meal is permitted in the evening: one can use fish, butter, cheese and eggs at that snack. Custom also permits having a cup of coffee, tea or clear chocolate with a piece of bread in the morning.
7. The precept of Lent is obliged under penalty of grave sin. For special reasons, the following classes are exempt from fasting for a single meal per day: (1) all who have not attained the age of 20 (2) the sick (3) those who are engaged in hard labor or fatiguing work (4) pregnant or nursing women. Those who excuse themselves or seek to exempt themselves of the obligation to fast must satisfy their conscience that their difficulty is from a real incapacity and not from the spirit of good eating. In all cases of doubt, they should endeavor to supplant the non-observance by another penitence, devote themselves to prayer and meditation, and to do, conforming to the spirit of the Church, during this holy season, acts of contrition and sorrow for their sins.
8. The precept of abstaining from meat is obligatory for all except children.
9. Those exempted from fast because of age, infirmity, hard labor, etc. can have meat, etc. All meals on the days where abstinence is not enjoined. On the other days, except in the case of illness, they should observe the rule of abstinence.

The pastors will conduct in their own churches special teachings of devotions, on fixed days, during Lent. Instructions of a nature specific to Christian duties, the nature of the sacrament, and the preparation required to receive them with dignity, should be given during these lessons.

We recommend earnestly for all Friday evenings of Lent, the devotion "The Stations of The Cross." ["Chemin de la Croix"]

John Ireland
Bishop of St. Paul

St Paul, 10 February, 1885

[Fast for Lent was very complicated and one can see why it has almost disappeared. Interesting that the observance is now "alive" in the Orthodox Anglican Churches as well as Catholic]

Notice

There will be a meeting of the members of the Literary Club of young Canadians of Minneapolis at 7 p.m. sharp in the hall of the French-Canadian Association.

HALL THE T MAN has returned from the East with 15 tons of magnificent gifts for all those who shop at his establishment. His is planning to sell at better prices than ever before.

The news from Fall River, Mass. Dated 14 October, informs that the Church of Notre Dame, as a result of troubles between the Irish priest McGee and the Canadians, has been interdicted by Bishop Hendricken. [The congregation's complaint was that a French speaking congregation was sent an Irish priest (This was the subject of an article in a previous issue). Interdiction could be a removal of control of their parish or even forbidding the sacraments. It is not clear if it is the church or the unfortunate Irish priest that has been interdicted.]

Canadian Gatherings

On Monday evening there was at the home of M. and Madame J. Ginchereau, of this city, a well-attended and brilliant meeting of friends: they were celebrating Lundi Gras [*] "à la Canadienne", just as in the good old days. Music, song and dance to a late hour into yesterday morning brought pleasure to all the guests the most agreeable recreation possible.

Yesterday evening, another gathering of friends at the home of M. and Madame Z. Demeules. There was a large group. The evening was a series of the most dignified and appreciated amusements in Canadian circles: games, song, dance and music.

At the stroke of midnight, when they had regretfully to depart, everyone retired enchanted by the magnificent reception by the Demeules, carrying the sweetest memory of these hours of intimate enjoyment.

There was also yesterday evening, numerous companies at the home of M. and Madam F. Florent.

[*Lundi Gras-"Shrove Monday", "Fat Monday", the day before Mardi Gras; see Wikipedia for further information]

The Canadian volunteers to the Nile Expedition left Alexandria last Friday the 13th and will arrive in Canada early in March. General Wolseley gave them the greatest praise. [These men had joined a multi-national force sent to rescue General Gordon in Khartum. It arrived too late.]

For Sale at a Good Price

146 acres of land in Medina, Minn., a mile from the Lenz Post Office near the French Catholic Church and 15 miles from Minneapolis. They harvest there 120 tons of prairie hay. There is abundant fire wood such as oak and maple, etc. For more information, address Z. Demeules, 27 1st Street South.

It appears from the quarterly report of the Treasure of *L'Union Francaise* of St. Paul, Louis Demeules, that the state of that good Canadian Society is quite flourishing. The figures speak for themselves: on July 1, 1884, the society had in hand \$4,681.18 and the January 1 balance was \$4,963.53 which means a gain of \$282.35 in the last six months. We are happy to congratulate our compatriots of St. Paul, members of *L'Union Francaise*.

M. Ed. Langevin, Mademoiselle Emma Langevin, M. and Madam Achille Michaud of St. Paul left last week for the Exposition in New Orleans.