

ST. VIATEUR'S COLLEGE JOURNAL.

LECTIO CERTA PRODEST, VARIA DELECTAT. Seneca.

VOL. I.

BOURBONNAIS GROVE, ILL. FRIDAY, Sept. 21 1883.

No. 10

RE-OPENING.

The scholastic year of '83-84 opened promptly and under most auspicious circumstances, on Tuesday the 4th. inst. It is doubtful if, at any time in the past, a more earnest and gentlemanly gathering of students took place within the walls of St. Viateur's.

The Rev. Fathers Beaudoin, Marsile and Mainville, to the great delight of all, still retain their old positions. They received all with their usual courtesy and kindness, formed classes without delay, and with surprising quickness. The routine of study was resumed with a willingness and regularity that augurs well for the coming year's work. It is sincerely to be hoped that so good a beginning will be productive of all that it promises and all that is hoped therefrom.

We notice among the arrivals many new faces, but all who are now entering stand on the threshold of a home whose aim is to fit them for the great struggle that lies beyond, whose sole desire is to make of all, true Christians and perfect men. It is a sad fact that success does not always crown the end desired, but in such cases failure generally depends, and is traceable to fault on the part of the one who fails.

Industry, perseverance and a strict adherence to the rules laid down for our guidance cannot fail to secure to us the attainment of success in whatever we undertake; without a strict adherence to these three principles we can hope for nothing, by a rigid observance of them we can reasonably hope for all.

To our patrons of the past, both subscribers and exchanges, we tender our sincere thanks for their kindly assistance and forbearance, and we trust that the present year will find them as generous and forbearing as the past.

One feature of the college still remains unchanged: the west wing of the building, is as yet, untouched.

We are not so fortunate as many of our sister institutions, especially in the East, who have large bequests and donations bestowed on them, yet we think in a section of the country so thickly populated as ours is and where the means are certainly not wanting, that some means might be devised whereby the good Fathers would be enabled to complete their building.

The efforts to bring the house to its present proportions are worthy of all praise, but to expect and to ask

assistance from those to whose state and city it is an ornament and a valuable acquisition is certainly not going beyond our province.

All the labor, all the fruit, and the results thereof, as exemplified in the teachings and graduates of the institution, are for no selfish end or aim; they are not confined to one or to a few individuals, their effect is wide spread and lasting, for they build not for to-day or to-morrow but for eternity. The only foe that socialism dreads to-day, and the only one that can successfully meet and vanquish it in its mad career is the spirit that guides such institutions and watches over its members from childhood to old age.

While we have no very sanguine hopes of seeing the edifice completed in our own time yet we trust the day is not far distant when we may have the pleasure of walking through the halls of the new wing.

DIOCESE OF PEORIA.

The Biennial Retreat of the Clergy.

[From the Peoria Democrat.]

On the 29th. ult. the clergy of the diocese of Peoria, together with Rt. Rev. Bishop Spalding, their distinguished prelate, held the usual biennial retreat at St. Viateur's College, Bourbonnais Grove, two miles north of Kankakee. The silence and retirement of the locality, together with the arboreal shades and well laid out parks, render the place well suited for so holy an object. The spiritual exercises were conducted by Rev. Wissel. C. SS. R. On Friday, the 6th. inst. Rt. Rev. Bishop Spalding celebrated Mass, having for his pious congregation seventy five priests of his diocese, all of whom, vested in surplice, and stole partook of the most adorable Sacrament of the altar. The Papal benediction was given to all present; and thus closed a week of fervor and love. It may be well to state that owing to the necessity for some of the clerical body to remain in charge of various parishes, all were not able to attend. Thus we see, contrasting the present number of laborers of souls with that when the zealous head of the diocese entered on his episcopal duties, the rapid growth of Catholicism in central Illinois. The diocese contained not more than thirty priests when Bishop Spalding took possession of it.

It may be well to remark that the first settler of Bourbonnais was Mr. Le Vasseur, a warm and firm friend of Mark Beaubien, Mr. Kenzie and Mr. Hubbard, who were among the first to make a home in Illinois. Bourbonnais college gives every opportunity for boys to perfect themselves in both the commercial and classical courses. The fact that it has been raised to

the rank of a university, enjoying all privileges of the same, proves that it has merited, as an educational establishment, the support of all interested in the spread and advancement of education. Much is due to Hon. M. C. Quinn, of Peoria, for his kind and successful efforts in obtaining for the college its present advantages. In the same village there is an academy for the education of young ladies in all the higher branches. It is under the charge of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, and is a branch of the far-famed Villa Maria situated near Montreal. Owing to the Archbishop of Chicago having been summoned to Rome, the priests of Chicago will not make their retreat this year.

LOCALS.

Once more at work!

The Campus presents a very animated appearance.

Plenty of old and an abundance of new hands to the bat!

"Mac" says that he would prefer a "Horn" to playing on the Snare Drum.

The Theological department contains this year, three members of the community.

Frank Periolat and Michael Coe are said to be organizing a Base Ball nine for the winter season.

Old Kentucky is looming up. Four arrived from there last week—viz Messrs. Cusack, Mosset, Brown and Kehoe.

The Journal congratulates "Hoosierdom" upon its representation this year. Paul has returned to head the rank and file of the "Fat men."

Two of our former students graced our table by their presence last Sunday—viz: Geo. Lavery of Kankakee and Charles Golden of Minonk. Both are successful business men.

Prof. Eugene Thorpe paid the College a visit last Thursday. For the evening he gave a very pleasant entertainment consisting of vocal selections and oratorical recitations.

Among the Rev. clergy that visited us last week were Rev. Fathers McShane and O'Gara of Wilmington, Kinsela of the Cathedral, Chicago, Clancy of Essex and Dellbar of Wapello.

Bishop Marty of Dakota paid the college a visit during vacation and very urgently requested the community to furnish him teachers for the institutions of his diocese. We hope that God will bestow his blessings upon our young but thriving Novitiate founded for the purpose of fitting young men for the sublime calling of the priesthood, whose members devote their whole lives to Catholic education.

A very successful Forty Hours devotion ended last Tuesday at the parochial church. The Sacred edifice was crowded with worshippers from the beginning to the end—thereby evidencing that in the midst of the

most busy period of the year, the Catholic farmers surrounding Bourbonnais regard the salvation of their souls as the most important of all duties. The priests in attendance besides the Pastor were Rev. Fathers Bergeron, Lesage, Letellier, Paradis and Chouinard.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

Rev. Thomas Kehoe of Covington Kentucky paid the College his first visit since his ordination last Monday, bringing with him four students. His action in this case evidently shows that the Rev. Gentleman has not forgotten his "Alma Mater" and his donation of \$5.00 to the "Journal" is an evidence that our efforts, no matter how unworthy of merit, should at least be encouraged.

The "Journal" returns thanks for the gift.

AN IMPORTANT EVENT.

Last Sunday three of our classical graduates, viz: Messrs. McGavick, Sadlier and Conway were presented with the clerical habit—the cassock. It accords the "Journal" no small share of pleasure and satisfaction to see young men such as these taking such a step—in enrolling themselves postulants—waiting and preparing themselves for the sacred ministry.

We congratulate the young men upon their first step towards the sacerdotal calling and trust that years of usefulness in the sacred ministry, if God ultimately so wills it, shall be theirs.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

If memory longs to go back and call up the friends of our childhood in counting over the good and dear old companions who were once our bosom friends, how many do we find that are numbered with the dead! How many old associates who once played around the old wooden school house, who frolicked around the green fields and pastures, have passed away, and when at college, how many of our old class-mates, who declined "Penna" together, who ate from the same table, who slept in the same dormitory, who played the same old tricks around the old "Campus," have departed from our midst, have been called away to rest in the bosom of their God! The gay and sprightly lad, the more sedate, the hard and laborious student, the model boy in the class room and out of it—each in his turn has taken his ranks amid the fallen. Yes, numbers of them have dropped with the falling leaves, tender and full of life's young vigor. Delicate flowers opening out and beginning to blossom into the beauty of manhood have been cut down by the sickle of relentless Death.

Among all these, the death of none, perhaps, concerns

us more directly than that of Alphonsus Legris who was buried on the 28th. day of last July from the parochial church. He was the beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Legris of this village, and was born July 7th. 1862.

When yet a mere boy, he manifested a great taste for study. At an early age when a student of this college, long before he graduated with honors, his dramatic talents displayed at the customary entertainments, drew forth the applause of all—praise was bestowed upon him from all sides and that praise was justly deserved.

Grown up, his inclinations drifted toward the legal profession, and for the purpose of prosecuting such studies, he was sent to Georgetown, D. C. where he remained one year.

It was at this time that sickness began to manifest itself on that apparent healthy constitution.

And through a short time his sharp and intelligent eye began to lose its lustre and his step began to falter, his self reliance and cheerfulness of heart—two of his leading characteristics—bore him up, in fact made him almost forget that the mechanism of his life was giving away, that what was immortal was already prepared to leave its mortal habitation.

He rallied, however, and shortly afterwards started to attend the North Western University at Chicago.

But here, indeed, he could not remain long, his sickness began to increase daily, and after a short stay in these halls of learning he returned—not indeed to brighten the beautiful home he had left behind by his presence, as he eventually should—but, alas! to die.

What a cloud of sorrow must hang over the home at the death of such a young man!

Fitted by nature to stand foremost in Society—fitted by education to be an honor to his family and his "Alma Mater", trained up under the best Catholic Schools—he was called away at a time when his natural as well as acquired endowments were beginning to manifest themselves most palpably. Well do we recollect him! Well do we remember that cheerful voice, that open countenance, that honest heart, that honest mind!

And he died as he lived a model of fortitude, of piety strengthened almost daily by the consoling sacraments of the Church bestowed by his affectionate brother Rev. Father Legris.

His absence indeed shall long be felt and so shall his memory long be cherished. The grass that grows along his grave may fade and return; but as long as the village Church spire shall cast its long tapering shadows across the green sward wherein he sleeps, so long shall the students coming to seek knowledge at St. Viateur's anxiously ask: "Show me the grave of Alphonsus Legris, of whom so many of your old students speak, whom

they so much admired and loved." While condoling with the sorrowful parents in their great loss, the "Journal" and its friends—his old classmates and born companions, one and all with sincerest wish say—"May his soul rest in peace!"

PERSONALS.

P. W. Clifford '82 Studies law in Chicago.

P. F. Scanlan '76 is a prominent lawyer of Peoria.

Rev. T. F. O'Brien '80 still remains pastor of Eagle Centre, Io.

J. J. Schubert '75 has become one of the leading Druggists of Kankakee.

Rev. D. F. McMahon, D. D. '73 officiates in St. Gabriel's Church, New York City.

Rev. T. Ouimet '83 makes light the labors of Father Cote, at the Sacred Heart Church, Chicago, Ill.

Rev. J. J. Clancy '79 who has charge of a flourishing Congregation at Essex paid us a short visit last week.

All who remember the cheerfull countenance of P. J. Keating '80 will be happy to learn that he is doing a prosperous business with his father in What Cheer, Io.

Streator Ills. Sept. 1-83.

Editor Journal,

Dear Friend:

Your correspondent arrived here a few evenings since, and is the guest of the Rev. M. J. Burns one of the most prominent and gentleman-priests in this vicinity.

Streator is a lively city. In fact, every thing is business. Coal! coal! coal is everywhere concealed in the earth underneath the room I am now occupying, and even hundreds of acres, for miles and miles around.

To be candid I am afraid if I prolong my stay, I shall wake up some fine morning singing "Down in a coal mine."

Notwithstanding however the enormous bustle and activity of trade in this city, its energetic inhabitants have not totally neglected the useful and the beautiful.

Though the growth of Streator has been marvelous, the population numbering 15,000 souls, and all that in five or six years, some of its public buildings are not inferior to any in the whole state of Illinois. I refer specially to the "Plumb Hotel" and Opera House erected by the Streator Millionaire, and for all that the reputed friend and assistant of the laboring man.

These two buildings are model structures in every respect, fitted up with all the Modern improvements and adjusted according to modern tastes and styles. The

Opera House contains no such ornaments as "Private Boxes" which in the eyes of Mr. Plumb were considered too luxuriant and only tended to create such a thing as an aristocratic society which he spurns with all the energy of a true man.

The soil of the country around Streater is rich and extremely productive. A ride of eight or ten miles through the adjacent country to what are known as the "Lost Lands" shall never be forgotten. Waving fields of corn stretching on for miles and miles, immense tracts of oats, extensive plains of wheat already cut and awaiting the thresher—all these presented a sight as beautiful and as artistic as was ever conceived by the mind of Thomson when he was penning his "Seasons." By the way the friends of the "Journal" may be pleased to learn that I saw Doc. Grimes in this locality as "fat and robust" as ever. His regards to all students were so numerous that a second trip at some future day shall be made to note all.

Speaking of Streater I cannot refrain from saying a few words about Kinsman a small village 15 miles to the north where I sojourned for a few days with D. F. Meagher Esq. the leading business man of that locality and I doubt not the "future mayor of Kinsman."

The people of this town are exceedingly energetic and prosperous. Father Hemlock whose cheerful and hospitable qualities are well known at St. Viateur's is resident Pastor.

It was an exceedingly great pleasure to me, who considered myself as a "rara avis" fifty miles from Bourbonnais to meet so many old students in this vicinity. Among them I may mention Messrs. Thomas Meagher, A. O'Shea, J. Lamb, O. McShane, Henry Murphy and R. Lamb.

The brother of the last named gentleman is postmaster and his courtesy and that of Mr. Latch shall long be remembered.

The leading hotel is the "Clarke House" the proprietor of which bestowed no small favors on the "Journal" representative.

It was with heartfelt regret that I tore myself away from Kinsman.

In fact so great became my attachment my response was the usual never! no, never!

Wishing the "Journal" the greatest success and promising to let you hear from me again occasionally, I remain, Dear Editor,

Yours Sincerely

J. P. M.

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY.

It is certainly a pleasure to us to have the opportunity of noticing the progress and advancement of christian

education. It is a pleasant task to note the prosperity of those who have to struggle for years against the greatest odds to maintain Catholic institutions, for the chief purpose of disseminating truth and only the truth; for the purpose of training up good and virtuous men and women.

Among those, the inhabitants of Bourbonnais Grove can point with pride to the Catholic convent in their midst under the direction of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

A "Journal" representative paid this institution a visit a few days ago and was shown, through the kindness of the Superioress throughout the spacious halls and class rooms.

To say that we were astonished at the beauty and elegance of this lovely convent home would be to say little; and to attempt to describe the same would be far more than the columns of our paper could contain. The new addition which measures 80x45 feet is certainly in keeping with the old structure, but in arrangement and in design, it seems to us far superior.

On the first floor we find a magnificent Music Hall, on the second a beautiful and spacious Chapel, while the third is used for dormitory purposes.

The Sisters of Notre Dame are certainly worthy of congratulation and abundant patronage owing to their great work in this vicinity. In the course of a very few years this grand structure, the result of their own personal labors has sprung up in this rural district, a structure that can be classed among the finest educational establishments of the state. Of the many facilities that the academy furnishes to young ladies to become proficient in the arts and sciences and above all to grow up thorough catholic women we need not say, as results speak for themselves, and these have been brought to our notice in not a few cases. The "Journal" wishes Notre Dame Academy throughout the scholastic year of 1883-4 the greatest success, which such an institution certainly deserves.

SCIENCE AND REVELATION.

To-day as ever certain scientists with their usual pomposity and egotism, strive to prove the absurdity of revelation. Some maintain amusing theories regarding the descent of man, others hold to strange conceptions of the formation of matter, while almost all unite in denying all that revelation advances with regard to time, creation and descent.

Revelation, when given a just and impartial examination, makes no statement and lays down no proposition that will not be fully borne out by scientific research.

With regard to time and its duration, or the earth and its formation, science fails to prove the slightest

fallacy when compared with revealed truths. Taking the Bible as an historical work no certain limit is set to the time which preceded the formation of the earth, nor is the precise time occupied in the formation thereof specified. We are at liberty to carry the mind back as far as we can in the first instance, and in the second we are entirely ignorant of the length of time meant by the six days of creation.

The period between the beginning of creation and its close, up to the time when the existence of the first man became a fact, is an entire blank to all men, Scientists as well as others. Learned Physicists, eminent Scientists, deep students of Geology and Astronomy, are forced to confess that there are unnumbered problems of formation and space, that there are countless physical difficulties to be overcome, ere they can hope to offer to the world at large even the shade of an opinion as to the construction of the earth's centre, or of the myriads of heavenly bodies revolving in space, which all art and genius and science combined have as yet failed to reach.

St. Basil, St. Ambrose, Venerable Bede, Peter Lombard and other lights of different times agree in saying that the matter of which the world consists was *created* previous to the first day, and from this matter the earth was *made* in six days, and this they could hold without fear of being considered in error.

Who can tell the extent of time that elapsed between the creation of Heaven and Earth and the moment when God said "Be light made!" It was as likely to have been a million years as a day.

Many passages are found in the Hebrew text where the word *Yom* (day) occurs, and the literal and absolute meaning of it as translated is, not a single day, but rather time or a space of time.

Geology and Scripture exhibit a marked resemblance in some cases relative to the order of creation. Holy Writ marks out three days as distinguished by the creation of animal and vegetable life—the third, fifth, and sixth.

On the third day plants and trees; on the fifth birds, fish, etc., and on the sixth, cattle, beast and man.

Geology tracing the remains of animal and vegetable life preserved in different strata of the earth has established three divisions of time; the Palaeozoic or first age of organic life, the Mesozoic, or second age, and the Kainozoic, or third age.

Sir Charles Lyell declares that as far as the present reachings of science will permit the expression of an opinion on the matter, almost any one of the periods in the Palaeozoic age was as long as all the periods of the Tertiary age taken together.

Each day of creation not only saw the event as narrated by the sacred writings but also many other events

of importance in the nature and works of creation.

The purpose of the writer was undoubtedly to impress upon the people of his day the existence of a supreme being, the founder of all things, and he chose such a manner as was most likely to impress the minds of a yet unlearned and uncultured people with the power and authority of such a being.

A lengthy exposition of the Devonian and Salurian periods, however interesting it may prove to scientists, would, in all likelihood, have had but little interest and slight effect with the people of that time.

Geology has given us much that is interesting, but only in a fragmentary way; it is yet in its infancy; each year brings forth new features, and the knowledge of the present will be increased during the coming year.

Positive opinion cannot be honestly set forth till the end is reached and science proves conclusively the truth of all it advances without fear of doubt or contradiction. Thus far it has failed to reach beyond a certain era in the period of creation, but until it is able to fold its arms about space, to reach down into and beyond the bowels of the earth, and, measuring both within its grasp, say Science is the victor, the beginning and the end, the foundation and substance of all things has been reached, until such time comes—and its coming is an absolute impossibility—the truths of Revelation must stand unimpugned by persons of good sense and taste. Geology presents two distinct theories between which we may choose with regard to the antiquity of the earth. One acknowledges an unlimited interval of time between the creation of Heaven and Earth, and the work of the six days; the other advances the theory that each one of these six days might have been an indefinite period of time.

The truth of neither theory is proven, nor is there any reason for preferring one to the other, yet neither one is at all opposed to the language of Holy Writ.

Either interpretation seems to meet the demands of Scientists, for it allows time without limit for the history of the world and that is apparently what they are striving to prove, but Scriptural narrative allows the same thing.

The book of Genesis viewed as an historical work is simply religious, not physical, and viewed in this light men of clear and calm judgment are content to accept it in the same spirit of truth and simplicity with which it was given, and leave discovery and surmises to Physicists. "He hath made all things good in their time, and hath delivered the world to their consideration, so that man cannot find out the work which God hath made from the beginning to the end." *

Viator.

* Ecclesiastes 3, 11.

BOURBONNAIS GROVE. (*Continued.*)

For seven years he remained in the same branch of business, the greater portion of which was spent in Indiana. (By Indiana is here meant the North-west territory altho' divided previous to this time, still retains its name, of old, among the frontiersmen who in all probability knew little and cared less about such divisions.) The old gentleman narrates that on one occasion while he, with his few companions, were going down to St. Joseph river they failed, according to custom, to make the usual call at an Indian village they were passing. The red man, feeling indignant at this want of respect on the part of the whites, persued them, made them prisoners and brought them back to the village where a most dignified trial took place in one of those primitive courts of native justice: and the party was fined one barral of tobacco and one barral of powder for their want of courtesy, with a solemn warning that such transgressions in the future would be more summarily dealt with. Le Vasseur traded for five or six years in Illinois, at that point now known as L'Erable, where a handsome church is situated in the midst of a large and wealthy congregation chiefly composed of French Canadians and Wallovs from Belgium, presided over by the ever zealous Father Clement.

Two years later he was sent to Rockville to trade with the Indians in that locality, who had just received their annual appropriation from the government, being an indemnity for the previous concession of a vast territory. Furnished with two barrels of whisky and a certain quantity of their tradeable merchandise, and accompanied by two men, he set out on his perilous journey. Liquor in those times seems to have been an indispensable element to an Indian bargain, as it seems to be this day. It is one of the indisputable evidences of civilization which the white man has impressed on the character of his more simple brother of the wilds; and in this liquor the great peril to the trader consisted. For when the Indian once tasted the intoxicating beverage he was never satisfied until reduced to complete drunkenness. But Le Vasseur, in the present instance, was fully equal to the emergency. On his arrival at Rockville; about nightfall, he concealed the precious stimulant in the brushwood and subsequently offered his merchandise for sale to the natives. The Indians could not be made to understand trade without the usual accompaniment; they argued that they had made promises which could never be broken to lately deceased friends, that they would not enter into negotiations without a modicum of the "fire waters." Le Vasseur yielded to their importunities, admitting that he had brought with him a small quantity of spirituous liquors. The intelligence was received with the most hilarious outbursts of

enthusiasm, and the white man soon saw himself surrounded with painted savages armed indiscriminately, with all manner of vessels, fiercely demanding that they be led to the hidden treasure. Although he exposed but one of the barrels, this supplied so strong a dose to those simple children of the woods that they became subjects of the most extravagant excesses. The stillness of the night was broken by their outrageous shouts and songs of joy; while their noisy dancing aroused the very sleeping echoes of the wilds.

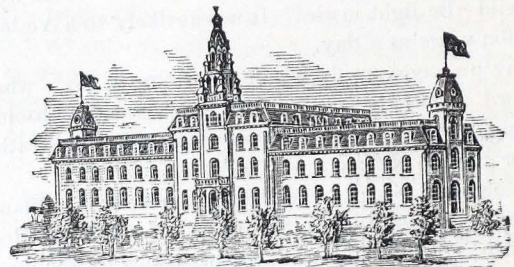
The astonished white man looked on those midnight orgies as nothing less than hideous emanations from Pandemonium, the acts of unchained devils. Their chief, Sawinissy, prudently foresaw that trouble might arise, and advised Le Vasseur to quit the camp as promptly as possible, an advice which he was not slow to follow. He came and fixed his tent in the centre of what is now the village of Bourbonnais. Fearing that the tinkle of the bells suspended at their horses' necks might betray their whereabouts, they muffled them with grass; and turning the animals loose, gave themselves up to repose.

(*To be continued.*)

Dr. D. Q. SCHEPPERS M. D.

292 Larrabee St. Chicago, Ill.

Dr. ~~Scheppers~~ will be in Bourbonnais on the 1st. of each month.



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