

The Catholic Register.

"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest."—BALMEZ.

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Register of the Week.

The Holy Father lately addressed a very earnest and fatherly letter upon French politics to the Archbishop of Bordeaux, Cardinal Lecot, which we print elsewhere in full. "A prolonged experience," writes the venerable Pontiff, "has clearly taught us that the state of the country is so changed that in the present condition of France it does not appear possible to return to the old form of power without passing through grave perturbations." He regrets that his former appeal for the loyal support of the present Constitution of France has not met from some that deference which an expression of solicitude coming from the Head of the Church should command. "We esteem as true sons of the Church those who know how to make without difficulty, for the very superior good of religion and the fatherland, sacrifice of their sentiments and private interests."

The Catholic reading public will learn with deep regret of the demise of that polished writer and clear thinker, Brother Azarias. He had gone to Plattsburgh in the latter part of July to deliver his lectures on Educational Epochs before the Catholic Summer School. He gave his course, and remained over to take part in the deliberations of the Board of Trustees, of whom he was one. Before the meetings were finished Brother Azarias was prostrated by an attack of pneumonia. It was feared from the outset that the attack was serious; but after a time the patient took a favorable turn, and strong hopes were entertained for his recovery. A relapse set in and the lamented author passed to his reward on August 20th. It was the closing of a delicate life, which leaves behind it monuments more enduring than bronze—the evergreen thoughts of books, which will be sources of pure pleasure, storehouses of intellectual wealth, from which will be distributed to generations of readers a juster appreciation of much the Church has taught and done in the brighter days of her glory. He will even rank high as a guide to readers and as a keen yet gentle literary critic. His chief works are Books and Reading, Philosophy of Literature, and Phases of Thought and Criticism.

Brother Azarias, whose name in the world was Patrick Francis Mullaney, was born in the county of Tipperary, Ireland. Early in youth he came to America, and joined the Christian Brothers in 1832.

Another loss has been experienced by the Catholic Church in the death of the Rt. Rev. Lawrence S. McMahon, Bishop of Hartford, Connecticut. He had left his diocesan city for Saratoga for the benefit of his health. Being

too feeble to continue his journey he rested at Lakeville, Conn., where he died on the 21st instant. Bishop McMahon was a Canadian by birth, being born in Nova Scotia, Dec. 24, 1835. His parents moved to Boston, where the Bishop grew up, and near which city he was educated in Holy Cross College, Worcester. He made his theological studies in France and completed them at Rome, where he was ordained in 1860. During a portion of the American war he accompanied a Massachusetts Regiment to the field as chaplain. He was consecrated Bishop of Hartford August 10, 1879.

The storm created by the Aigues-Mortes massacre has died down, until its rumblings are only heard in the angry gossip of the provincial towns of Italy. It was at its highest point when a mob attacked the French Embassy at Rome, and attempted to carry out their threats of burning the Embassy, notwithstanding the presence of a strong force of soldiers who had been detailed to guard the building. The next most serious rencontre was when rioters visited the house of a French Consul in Sicily, smashed the windows, tore down the escutcheon, and tried to burn it.

The French Government has promised to give complete satisfaction to Italy for the affair. The families of the victims, as well as the workmen who have suffered from the anti-Italian agitation, will be fully indemnified. The Italian ambassador at Paris is reported as having informed the French Government that in view of the prompt dismissal of the Mayor of Aigues-Mortes, and placing confidence in the efficient and impartial action of the French magistracy for the punishment of the guilty, the Italian Government is happy to be able to consider the incidents satisfactorily closed.

The coal strike in Wales is abating. What last week was gigantic in numbers is now moderate, and what then was threatening with force is fast becoming ludicrous. The march of 4,000 strikers from the Rhondda Valley to Ebbow Vale proved a fizzle; only 200 got more than half way, and these never reached their determined destination. Non-union miners are still at work, and many of the strikers are known to be willing to return to work without the advance in wages. The trouble arises not so much from the Welsh themselves as from unmarried roving English young fellows, who are only too glad for a pretext to quit work if there is a friendly union in the neighborhood which will support them.

The political programme in England, after the defeat of the Home Rule Bill by the Lords, will consist in the introduction of a resolution in the House of Commons condemning the

Upper House and reaffirming most earnestly the principles of the Bill. Such a resolution can be passed in a fortnight, and be just as effective as a new discussion on the bill, which would take the entire session. A very much needed holiday of six weeks is promised the weary House of Commons.

A London cable announces that the beginning of the third reading is to be marked by another great speech from Mr. Gladstone, who will make the motion, and perhaps his final effort for the Irish cause. The reply to the Premier falls to the lot of Mr. Goschen, formerly Chancellor of the Exchequer, an able foe but not a first-class debater. A grand display of eloquence will follow until, during the sitting to-morrow night, the Commons will have closed its long struggle and will have passed the Bill.

The battle over the Silver question is at an end, so far as Congress can close it. An attempt will be made in the Senate to secure a compromise. It is expected that this bill repealing the purchase clause of the Sherman Act will be referred to the Finance Committee. A debate of two weeks will follow and a different bill sent back to the Congress, declaring in favor of bi-metallicism, but in all other respects agreeing with the Wilson Bill.

The Democrats are preparing a tariff bill, which they propose to be brought before Congress immediately. Mr. Wilson of West Virginia, Chairman of Ways and Means, advocates the reform of the McKinley tariff, especially as to all of those schedules which affect the Dominion. He has been, however, hitherto opposed to free coal.

Cholera, which this year has been more widespread than last, is now pretty well under control—a fact which makes the outlook quite hopeful. The investigations at Paris and Naples, where the dust was examined and found to contain a large quantity of bacteria, prove that the disease is communicated from person to person, not by the general atmosphere.

The London Standard reports that the disease is spreading slowly but steadily in the great centres of Galicia and Hungary, where it is most difficult to eradicate it.

Sir John Thompson returned to the Capital last Saturday from his visit in Paris. An address of welcome was presented to him by the members of the Municipal Council of Ottawa. The address, without discussing the ultimate result of the Behring Sea award, felt that it was a subject of sincere congratulation "that once more an international dispute so pregnant with issues of importance to ourselves" should be referred for

settlement to the peaceful method of arbitration. The distinguished Premier, in reply, admitted that in this, as in other important matters, neither party may feel altogether satisfied; but still it was a deep satisfaction that it was happily settled in a manner consistent with the absolute peace of the two countries; and in a way that will eventually be recognized as consistent with absolute justice to this country. "Canada," he said, "had been vindicated among the nations of the earth by having a voice in the settlement."

The General Intention for the members of the League of the Sacred Heart for September is the Church in Italy. As the attacks of the impious and unbelieving centre upon Rome, the residence of the Supreme Pontiff, so it is of paramount importance that the prayers of the faithful should be directed in defence of the freedom of the Holy Father and the fidelity of his immediate subjects. This interest involves the preservation of the clergy in proper spirit and required numbers. Another interest is that which concerns the religious orders, both active and contemplative. Yet these are harrassed most severely by the Free Mason Government of Italy, so that parishes are without priests, and convents empty. The schools are filled with teachers who neglect religion or teach impiety. Again the enormous burthens of taxation are producing extreme misery and untold evil. All these reasons should urge the fervor of prayers for the amelioration of poor Italy, which goes from bad to worse.

A very forcible article appeared lately in the *Daily Chronicle* of London in regard to the determination of the House of Lords upon the Home Rule Bill. It points out the fact that 500 men, individually as proud, idle and luxurious as any other 500 in any one part of the civilized world, are going to sit in prejudiced judgment upon a question which has been already debated for seven years. In Ireland people have fought and died for it. In England the argument has been maintained with severe intensity. At length, after a revolution of the great constitutional machine, the mandate goes forth demanding Home Rule. In all this contest these 500 took little or no part. They have only to remain a few days in town, and the whole stream flows backward. Ireland is thrown into a revolution. England is sent to solve a problem she has already decided, and the House of Commons must repeat its incessant six months' toil of threshing out a Constitution for Ireland. But this is no exceptional action on the part of these noble five hundred. "What they will do for Home Rule they did for the land question over and over again. They rejected the Compensation for Disturbance Bill; they mutilated the Act of 1881; on their guilty heads lies the blood that has been spilt, the misery that has been endured in Ireland for the last twelve years." The *Chronicle* insists that "these vulgar out-of-date appanages of an impossible system" go and stand not upon the order of their going, but go at once. This abolition of the House of Lords is to be the Liberal test at the next election.