



EDITORIAL NOTES.

Once more has the Honorable Edward Blake stepped to the front in the British House of Commons. His speech of last Friday night is considered to be one of the most splendid pieces of reasoning upon the Home Rule question that has yet been heard in the House. It was a matter of regret, expressed by the London press, that the effort was not made at an early period in the debate. Still, late as it was, and late as the hour of delivery was, the Hon. Mr. Gladstone listened to it with marked attention, and he "drank in," as the report says, every phrase. If the hyper critical found fault with Mr. Blake's first grand speech, they may also have something to snarl at in this one; but despite their prejudiced and unwarranted comments, the fact remains that Edward Blake, the Canadian, is recognized as one of the foremost debaters and one of the deepest statesmen in the British House of Commons to-day. If, as we hope, the measure now under consideration passes in committee and becomes law, no small share of the credit will be due to Canada and the Hon. Edward Blake; and both this young country and her worthy son, will deserve the undying gratitude of the whole Irish race.

From Toledo, Ohio, a despatch came last week in which reference is made to a famous mound, at Walnut Grove, near Martin's Ferry, which is being demolished, for the purpose of filling streets. In it some strange discoveries have been made. The mound is twenty-nine feet high and one hundred and seventeen feet in diameter. The following is a list of some of the objects discovered:

"Human skeletons, skulls, bones, elk antlers, paleolithic engravings, and implements, arrow heads, spear heads, pale gray flints, cup stones, agricultural implements, granite hammer stones, sinkers, perforated stones, etc., have been found. Some of the relics are entirely different from any recorded in history. Most of them are found near the bottom. Some of the skulls are twice the size of the ordinary skulls of the present day."

If it be true that some of the skulls are as large as stated, it may be the starting point of many lengthy investigations and many endless discussions. Much less than this piece of information has set the scientific world at work and has caused countless theories and endless absurdities to be set up by the philosophers of the age.

YATES, in his letter to the Tribune, sneers at Mr. Gladstone's speech upon the second reading of the Bill. He characterizes it as "purely academic;" it is a wonder he would grant even that much. But he adds that it "showed so little knowledge of the controversial subjects." This sublimely audacious remark would be worthy of note, were it only for the originality of the thought, had he not attempted to explain it by stating that Gladstone is kept in ignorance of all that

takes place, and lives "in a fool's paradise of adulation." The fact is that the amount of incense burned by fawning sycophants at Yate's own shrine, has turned the man's head and he evidently is either demented himself or else he believes the rest of the world to be so. The idea of Mr. Gladstone knowing nothing of what is taking place, and of not understanding his own bill is only eclipsed in absurdity by the next crazy remark of the courtier journalist. He says: "According to my information" (where did he get it?) "in many parts of Ireland the peasants are holding regular lotteries for land. These lotteries generally take place in chapels." Mr. Yates has no such information and he knows that his entire letter is manufactured out of lies. These are the weapons to which such anti-Home Rulers have recourse when their cause is shaky and their arms are rusted. Mean insinuations about the grandest man in England and downright falsehoods about the most patient and long suffering people on earth. Shame on such men as Edmund Yates!

The following beautiful prayer has been attributed to the devout Thomas a Kempis, and was cut from an old newspaper some years ago. It seems to comprise everything that man could ask for from God. We received a copy of it from Hon. Senator Murphy, and we are sure that our readers will be pleased to have it:—

"Give me, O Lord, a clear understanding against all error, a clean heart against all impurity, a strong faith against all doubtfulness, a firm hope against all difficulties, fervent charity against all indifference and negligence, great patience against all disturbance, holy meditation against way sinful imagination, continual prayer against the devil's assaults, good occupation against the tiresomeness and drowsiness of heart, a hearty sorrow for all my sins, and lastly devout remembrance of Thy holy passion against the wounding of the soul by vice. Assist me, O my God with all these Thy good gifts and confirm me in all Thy holy words, Amen."

We have been asked several times what is meant by "boiler-plate." For the information of the uninitiated we will explain as clearly as we can the meaning of that expression. It is used to designate a certain class of printed matter which is so prepared that any paper that has not sufficient original material to fill all its columns can, at a given figure, receive these articles all ready to go on the press. Firms make it a special business to supply this matter to the different organs requiring it. In some cases the "boiler-plate" articles are better and more interesting to the general reader than would be the original compositions; in other cases the locality affords so little news that in order to fill up a paper it is a great boon to have this means at command. There are some of our Catholic weeklies that use considerable "boiler-plate." That is in no way a drawback in certain cases; but there is a great danger connected therewith which we desire to point out. If

the editorials in a Catholic paper are the expression of that organ's principles and views, and consequently should be most carefully written, none the less important are the selections of general matter. They should harmonize with the editorial expressions, and it is the business of the editor to see that they do not clash. In the case where "boiler-plate" selections are used, it is not always possible for the editor to conform his views to what they contain, and he cannot change them to make them agree with his views—he must accept them as they are set up in the plate. Thus we often find articles in some of our Catholic papers that contain expressions and convey ideas that should never find place in a Catholic journal. We think, on account of this constant danger, that it would be preferable to issue a paper in smaller form than to attempt a larger one, the greater part of which consists of this electrotpe matter. It is not generally supposed that the editing of a Catholic paper means more than the mere penning of a given number of editorial columns: often there are more woeful mistakes made in the general articles selected than in the special ones written. It is for this reason that we have but small faith in the "boiler-plate" style of filling up a paper.

In the London Canada Gazette, of the 30th March, appears an account of the consecration, in Westminster Abbey, of three new Bishops. It opens in a most amusing manner. Rarely have we met with a more ridiculous remark than the very first one with which the article opens, and the second is almost as bad:

"It would have been difficult even for the Roman Catholic Church to devise a form of ceremonial more befitting the occasion than was that which marked the consecration of three colonial bishops in Westminster Abbey last Saturday morning. No building in the United Kingdom at least lends itself so well to a solemn ceremony of this kind as does the Abbey, which is itself a record of many noble pages in the history of the English-speaking race."

Imagine the difficulty for the Roman Catholic Church to devise a ceremonial grander than that of the Church of England, or one more befitting the occasion. What was the form of ceremonial on that occasion? It was nothing other than a most imperfect imitation of that used in the Church of Rome. It consisted of a few disjointed and poorly arranged external forms devoid entirely of the meanings that they possess in the Catholic ritual, and completely divested of the spirit and power that in the Church of Rome belong to them. The Abbey lending itself to such a solemn ceremony! That huge mausoleum, without a spark of life in it! It is a vast tomb for mortal remains, but it contains no living power; it never has a sacrifice offered upon its altar!

WHEN Mr. Labouchere asked the Secretary of State for War whether his attention had been called to the blood and thunder speech delivered by Col. Saun-

derson on the 15th March last, the Secretary, Mr. Campbell Bannerman said:

"He should be sorry to answer for the whole of Ulster on any question (laughter). He did not read the speech referred until his attention was called to it. As was intimated by the honourable member for Northampton, the honourable member for North Armagh had two existences (laughter). He was the colonel of a regiment of Irish militia and he was also an Irish member and an active, if not an excited politician (loud laughter). It was solely in the second capacity that the honourable and gallant member made this speech (laughter). His honourable friend would agree with him that they had long ago learned in that House to gauge the value of the exaggerated language sometimes employed by the honourable and gallant member, and he hardly thought that special notice need be taken of this particular ebullition. (Hearty laughter from all quarters of the House, in which Colonel Saunderson joined, greeted the conclusion of the answer of the Secretary of State for War.)"

A friend, in drawing our attention to this paragraph, remarks that were the English Government called upon to consider the question of Mr. Clarke Wallace's recent expressions, it would have to allow for two separate existences in that gentleman, taking seriously what he might say as a Minister of the Crown, but treating his utterances as Grand Master of the Orange Lodges with contempt. Our correspondent humourously adds:

"Do these funny episodes remind you of the amusing discussion which took place when it was announced that her grandson, the Emperor of Germany, had conferred the honorary colonelcy of a German Regiment of Guards on the Queen of England? In the event of war between England and Germany, would her Majesty hurl her English troops upon the Imperial Guards commanded by herself, and would she, as their honorary colonel, be in duty and in honor bound to repel the attack? Such were the questions which distracted the minds of some funny fellows in England."

In a Church of England paper a preacher was permitted to publish the following:

I exchanged words with Pius IX. when the latter was in a dying condition. He shouted out in a very ill tempered manner, "English minister!"

Without any hesitation we say that the above statement is a lie. Considering the almost insurmountable obstacles that would debar that same preacher from an audience with the Pope, when the latter was in perfect health, it requires very little judgment to know that in his hours of illness and especially when on his death-bed, the Sovereign Pontiff would not be disturbed by the presence of any such individual. Again; the mere idea of the Pope "shouting," and especially Pius IX, and above all when in the weak condition in which that great Pontiff had been for a long period before his end, is so absurd that the statement stamps the author of it as a falsifier, and the organ that published it as either stupid or worse.

At the recent Brazilian elections several priests were returned as members of the Republican Congress.