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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1900. CALENDAR FOR NEXT WEEK.

SUNDAY, Feb. 19th, Violet. Scraperims Surday. Mass of the day. Veryers (White) of the following, com. of Sunday and St. Raymond,
MONDAY 19th, White. St. Titus, Bishop and
Coofessor. Double.

TORSDAY 20th, Red Analtersary of Election of lile Holinese Leo XIII. commenoration of the Passion D. N. J. C. Greater Double. WEDIRSDAY 21st, White. Seem Founders of the Servite Order C. C. Double. THURSDAY 21st, White. Chair of 5s, Peter of Antioch, Greater Double.

Antioch, Greater Double.

PRIDAY 23. White. St. Peter Damian, Bishop.
Confessor, Doctor. Double.

SATURDAY 24th, Red. St. Mathias, Ap. Double.
Sal Ci.

The House of Loretto.

In the last issue of The Register allusion was made to a notable scoffer at the dogmas and practices of the Catholic Church, and special reference was made to the Holy House Loretto as an object of Catholic veneration—reference which shows at once that the writer, learned as he undoubtedly is, knows not whereof he writes, at least not much.

He writes :

"Still the Church's power wanes, and must continue to wane, loaded as she is with such dogmas as the infallibility of the Pope, such miracles as air the House of Loretto and Pilate's stairs, up which devotees are mow crawling, and up which Luther was crawling when a voice said to hall ive by faith."

The Catholic Church has always been and still is the receptacle as well as the guardian, not only of the writ-ten and duly authenticated history of revealed truth pertaining to the life, miracles and teachings of our Divine Lord, but also of the traditions and monuments connected with the life.

Loretto is a town!of some 8 000 in. habitants, in the Province of Macerata in Italy, and is chiefly remarkable as being the site of the celebrated sanctu-ary of the Blessed Virgin, known by e title of the Santa Casa or the Holy House of Loretto, its rame being derived from Laureta, the lady the site belonged. puted, let us here say, to be the House in which the Holy Family spent so many years at Nazareth.
There is a singular history attached to it, and the facts are well authenticat.

After the Holy Land had been finally abandoned to the infidel on the failure of the Crusades, it is believed to have been miraculously translated by the ministry of angels, first, in Fiume in Dalmatia, and sember 10th, 1294, to Re-1291 to Finne sanati, whence it was finally trans ferred to its present site at Loretto.

The Holy Rouse itself is not a large building, having just one door one window; it is twenty-sever feet long and twelve feat wide, built of broad, thin red brick. stands in the centre of a beautiful Church near the centre of the town. The great central door of this Church is surmounted by a splendid broaze etatus of the Madonna : in the interior are three (magnificent bronze doors filled with bas-reliefs, representing some of the principal events of seripture! and scelesiastical his

tory.

The Holy House, of rude material tion. by the lavish grass esity of conturior of Catholic faith heen seeed with white marble, ex-quisitely sculptured, after Bran.aute's by Sameovino, Bandineili, i Bologness and other emiment artists. The subjects of the basAugunaiation, the Visitation and the Nativity, with the exception of three which are mainly devoted to the legend of the Boly House itself and of its translation.

The Holy House of Loretto has been as all times an object of devout veneration, numberless pilgrims have esorted to it : indulgences have been attached to pilgrimages and to pray-ors (fiered at the shrine by various pontiffs, particularly by Julius II., Sixtus V. and Innocent XII., and yet, so far as we know, the truth of the history of this much venerated relic of the Holy Family is no part of Catholic dogmatic belief. Catholics hold themselves free, the church puts no restrictions on their freedom in the matter, to examine critically its truth, and to admit or reject it according to the canons of historical evidence.

On the face of such facts as these it is either puerile ignorance or deliberate mis-statement of the truth to speak of the Cathelieh Church as being loaded with such miracles as the Holy House of Loretto. Catholics have just as much freedom in accepting or rejecting such miracles as these the scoffer himself, only with this difference, they accept and he re-jects, and also with this other difference that they have made vouchers for their belief by rigid and thorough investigation of the facts which he contemptuously, unreasonably and illogically ignores. Catholics see with their eyes open, judge as rational beings, and accept on the strength of that judgment : the scoffer closes his eyes so that he may not see and blind-ly concludes that, because he does not se, will not see, theretore it is not This is agnosticism with a vengeance, but it is the cowardice of infidelity the impudence of cultured ignor ance as well.

Ireland and the Present Crisis.

In venturing upon the somewhat delicate ground indicated by the heading of this article, we disclaim any intention of raising a dangerous issue in the present state of public feeling in Canada anont the war in South Rather do we purpose mak ing a calm survey of the attitude of the people of what may be termed that Greater Ireland, which includes not only Ireland, but the millions of Irish. men and their descendants in other lands across the oceans.

In all the world there is no that turn so fondly and so faithfully towards the motherland as the Irish abroad. Just as the Catholic turns towards Rome, the Mahometan towards Mecca, the Irishman, wherever be may be, turns toward the Emerald Isle. The love of Ireland is with him and his children, born in another land though they may be, a religion, second only in his heart to the faith for which he and his forefathers through many centuries have suffered Bearing this in mind, it saorineed. Bearing this in mind, if is not astonishing that his sympathies will go out to the brave spirits who are striving against many and dis-heartening obstacles to win for Ireland that standing and recognition among history, k which ner tradition, her constancy, her struggles, her immense sacrifices and the so manding integrity of her people en-title her. We mean Home Rule, on ametica of which the Irigh people the world over have set their

In the struggle for Tome Rule, the Irish people claim that they have used and confined themselves to con tional methods—to such legitimate means as are conceded to British sub They claim that by these iects. means they practically won their carso; the British people through their elected representatives at Westminster acknowledged that they had won it and conceded it to them by a majority of the House of Comm The Lords, however, who represent mobody but themselves, whose veto powers on questions of national importance should either be abolished or limited to the line of hermlessness refused their consent to the mea

Still the Irish people hoped on, trugglod on, convinced that it was struggled on, souvince only a question of time. Misfortune overtook, and for a time almost over whelmed he great Irish National party that had by its unity of purpose

unitine rolovelb has notiqued lack of hadership, h all the trials and vicissitudes of a quarter of a century the Irish people have never lost hope, have never abandoned their aim of gaining the one thing that will bring contentment Irish heart and peace to Ire to the land. It is still a question of time, but the interval of waiting, longing, struggling, fighting, has left its mark upon the Irish character in every

Putting pure sentiment aside and locking at the hard facts, no person of calm judgment will pretend to deny that in this time of trial to England and her empire, a united and colid front should be presented to the world. Such would have been the case had Home Rule for Ireland been granted when it was fairly and practically won. Such, however, is not the case. Instead there is the spectacle of the whole body of the Parlia mentary representatives of an integral part of the United Kingdom, diesocie-ted from and actively hostile to the government and its policy at a critical time like the present, when as one o England's statesmen has said, the fortune of the Empire is at stake. Ιŧ is only courteous and honest to say that, so far as we know, the best of the English press have not attempted to accuse the Irish National party of even disloyalty in assuming their pre-sent attitude towards the government and towards the war. They tacitly and towards the war. They tacitly acknowledge that in view of all the circumstances, this attitude was to be expected. It was looked for and when me it was no surprise. vorld itself is not surprised, nor will there there be any marked outburst in any part of her Mejesty's dominions at the defection of the Irish members from what has come to be called the Imperialistic policy of England.

the face of the action of the Nationalists at Westminster, In the face and of the general expression of the Irish press, it would be as fruitless to deny as it would be objectionable hère to parade the fact, that Ireland is not at one with England in her present South African policy. The rea sent South African policy. The reasons for this condition of things are so palpable that they scarcely require mentioning. They are the refusal of Home Rule, an honest conviction born of Ireland's own sad experience of British rule that the war is not justifiable, sympathy with the Boors in what is coming to be regarded as a beroic struggle for independence—and the ingrained idea—whether mistaken or well-founded—that "England's need is Ireland's opportunity, jest, of course, to constitutional and

legitimate opposition. That the Irish Nationalists Westminster represent the will and sentiment of the Irish people, any one who reads the Irish papers cannot Nor can the English people or any part of the British people justly claim that the Irish people and their representatives in opposition at Westminster are disloyal, seeing that many prominent and representative Englishmen are equally opposed to the war. They are in opposition to the government, exercising their free parliamentary privileges, and that is strictly and justly speaking all that

an be said of them. The struggle for Home Rule for Ireland has never been abandoned, is still going on, and in their present action the Irish members are merely pursuing the same line of argumenthat before this has made and number governments. We repeat that the English people themselves, never exanything else, could expect else. The Irish members pected nothing els nothing else. The Irish members seting as the accredited represent-atives of the Irish people in parliament would be untrue to their trust and traiter to the offuse which the Irish people have so much at heart, if they had acted differently.

With the centiments, expressions of opinion, and setions of the millions of Irish blood in the United States, the English or British subjects have thing to do sny more than they have with the French, the Russians or the Germans who are at no pains to hide their opposition to the war in Africe, and their antagonism to Eug-land. Look upon them as enemies of the British Empire and of England in particular British people can and will, but apart from that they have no ad their antagonism to Eug-A fair

has happened would happen under the like circumstances. But there can-not be a doubt that the persistent heatility of the Irish Americans to England will leaven public opinion and react upon the sentiment of a people who have never been too friendly to

With regard to the people of the Irish race in Canada, we have no word to offer. Their rectitude of purpose and fidelity to national duty are written too plainly upon the pages of Canadian history to warrant even a passing allusion. On the other hand, the Canadian people as a whole, who parliament not so many years ago assed resolutions in faver of Hon Rule for Ireland, knowing the deep meradicable love for the motherland, in the Irish heart, cannot but so knowledge that, no matter what difference of opinion there may be concern ing the justice or injustice of the war steelf. it is natural that their symps thies should be with their countrymer at home in the present crisis.

Mr. Blake's Vote on the Amend

According to the despatches con siderable surprise bas been manif ed and adverse comment made by the ndon Press at Hon, Edward Blake's action in voting for Mr. Redmo amendment to the address. Had Mr. Blake voted against it more than the London press would have been surprised. We cannot doubt that Mr. Blake was actuated by the bighes and most consolentious motives when he left home and friends to actively identify himself with the cause of Home Rule for Ireland and shape Westminster. In no part of his subsequent career has word or ant permitted the world uspect that he was weakening in the struggle.

Through the twistings of a disorganized and disunited party having he same common object, he ha invariably maintained a consist attitude of uncompromising fidelity to the cause to which he decided to devote his splendid talents, his time and the secrifice of much that mus have been very dear to him.

The attitude of the Irish members is that of a united party in opposition to the policy of her Majesty's govern ment, first on principle and second a line of action calculated to achieve the end they have in view. If it was ust and proper that Mr. Blake hither to should exercise his right of freedon ingt and nr of voting with the Irish party, it is certainly jucs and proper that he should do so now. He may be considered as a Home Ruler of the most pronounced type, believing that a easure of Home Ruler based on the Canadian pattern would pacify Ire land, advantage England, and provi most satisfactory to the various sections of the British Empire. Did Dia the unreasonable part of the London Press expect that Mr. Blake, at 'a time which marks an epoch in the history of the Home Rule party, and may possibly yet mark an epoch in may possibly yet mark an epoch in the history of the Home Bule movement, would slip back and out and support a government's policy which probably he, with many eminent Englishmen, condemns?

True he expressed his condemnation of the small and mischievous talk of an invasion of Canada, which some short while ago engaged the attention of the newspepers; but it is one thing to express readiness to fight for his native land-as the Buers are doing for theirs—and another, to count-enance or uphold the South African war as a just war. Those who know the character of the man, his broad and just ideals of statesmanship, his fidelity to a cause once espouse entendid moral conrege and high intellectual attainments, will have no difficulty in understanding why Mr. Blake voted with the Irish Nationalists at Westrainster.

Cardinal-Vieer Dominie Mary Jacobini, formerly Papal Nuncio at Liabon is dead. In him the poorer classes of Rome have lost their best friend for it was to him next to the Pope that they were indebted for workingmen's and artist's benevolent clubs which have done so much to relieve the misery and distress duri relieve the misery and distress during the last few years. As was regarded as the Candidate of the Italian goverdesigns, by Sassovino. Bandineili, Since the second state of the s

A Boar's View of British Rule.

In reviewing the excellent February number i the North American Re view, one cannot help noticing the large space devoted to the various phases of the Bouth African Oceation drawn forth by the astual war. of the articles headed "The Dauger Personal Rule in South Africa, Montague White, recently Consul General of the Transvaal in London, sets forth the blunders of British Rule Seeing that the British view of affeirs is the one that has been most frequent ly paraded before the public, it not be amiss and parter! be amiss and certainly is only fair to hear what the other side has to

Mr. White begins by stating that various motives have been put forward to justify the war. "Equal rights for white men in the Transvasl, taxation without representation,
"The Redress of the Uttlanders Uitlanders grievances," "The maintenance of British supremacy or paramountcy, are among the more plausible reasons advanced by the war party.

In discussing the influences and forces which brought on the war, the writer nuts first of all "a discontented and irreconcilable British element in Johannesburg, confronted by an original population of Dutch farmers se conservatism was intensified by sixty-five years of bitter experience of Great Britain. Then, there was disappointed capitalistic politician who had ruined his career as a states man by an act of mad folly, and who was burning to be revenged on those whom he had bitterly wronged. Last but not least, there were three im mensely powerful but unavowed forces, which may be conveniently described as greed of gold, lust of empire and a thirst for revenge. The first was represented by Capitalism, in a change in the administration of the Republic, which would result in higher dividends, based upon obsaper white labor and a modified system of black slavery. The second was voiced by the yellow press of London, and posed as Jingoiem pure and simple; it was intoxicated but not satisted by the success of Omdurman and Fashods, and shouted Omderman and Rashous, and shoused loudly for the suppression of the two "nebulous" Republics which marred the symmetry of the South African map I'he third was strikinely Illustrated he the farewell cry of the crowd, 'Re-memoer Mejubal' as the troop-lader trains steamed out of the terminal stations in London." The growth of personal rule as embodied in the High Commissioner of South Africa greatly to blame, in as much as that and without the advice and co

his Colonial Ministers, and in not harmonizing imperial ideas with Sir Barsle Frere, the first High Commissioner, quarreled with his ministers, dismissed them and called upon Sir Gordon Sprigg, the leader of the opposition to form another Ministry to carry out a policy that left a try to carry out a policy that left a trail of blood in every part of South Africa. Sir Bartle was recalled in disgrace in 1880.

nsent o

Sir Hercules Robinson had to face the Boer War of Independence which was marked by "Mainba" and termin nvention of 1881. statesman on the whole was person grate to the Boers, and worked in with his ministers on strict

ly constitutional lines.
Sir Henry Loch, the third High
Commissioner, failed to win the sympaby of the dominant Dutch popular tion of the Cape, who, whether rightly or wrongly, were impressed with the idea that he was persistently antagonistic to their kinsmen, the Boers of the Transvasl.

Sir Hercules Robinson, then to old a man for so onerous a position was sent to the Cape for another term

for the purpose, it has been said, of urging a policy of force upon the ent. In his ubsence, British Governo William Butler, the Comme in chief at the Cape, acted as High Commessioner. This much maligned soldier and statesman, during his short term of office, ruled constitutionally and did three important things

things.

"First, he refused to roceive a polition to the Jueen, organized by the South African loague at Johannesburg, Noonda African loague at John made a speech in which he doclared that South Africa was in nool of rest, and did not require a surgical operation. This wiss policy Sir Africal Milner, "I have care to the Cape, immediately reversed, by accepting the potition of 21,000 signatures and forwarded it to the South African Republic, and one continued course of personal ratio, ignosing his ministors and treating thom as traitors. There was no attempt made by him to reconcile the two races.

Mr. White same un time.

Acces. White sums up thus:

Mr. White sums up thus:

"But there are three persons—Mr. Chamberlain, Sir Alfred Milner, and Mr. Ribedes, each in himself an exemplication of the danger of autocratic power—who have a large and direct responsi--who have a large and direct responsibility for this calamity" (the war).

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Much was expected of Roberts and Kitchener, but so far their presence on the scene of operations do to have any appreciable effect on the spirits of the Boers who continue to roll back one British force after another with comparative case.

In our Irish News from Galway will be found the report of a resolution passed by the Ballinasioe District Council directing the attention of the British Government to the calloueness, apathy and cowardice of Irish landlords disporting themselves at home while England is constrained to call for volunteers for active service. The resolution suggests that these same landlords should at once offer their services and clear out to South Africa. This is certainly a very commendable way to get rid of Irish landlordism.

It is stated that there are fortynine millions of people famine stricken in India. This is the calculation of the Secretary to the Government of India. In the summary of Curzon's speech as published in the London papers there was no promise of any scheme for preservation of these starving million The Vicercy appealed to the public and the public is dealing with the terror after the manner of any other unorganized body. Meanwhile the British Government is voting millions after millions of pounds for the prosecution of the war against the Boers, but not a shilling for India's sterving people.

Try to disguise it as they will, it is the fact that the Protestar are coming to realize that the inr of materialism are being pushed d of materialism are being pushed deep-er and wider into their folds. The more eminent and thoughtful of our separated brethern realize that they are losing in the struggle, and are asking themselves where and how it asing toemselves where and how it is going to end. Each sect turns to its neighbor only to find the same thing going on there. Recent writings from distinguished non-Catholic pens have shown a tendency to look with onging eyes to the marvellous stability and uncompromising attitude of Catholic Church, which alone, of all Churches, not only holds its own, but reaches out a helping hand to those who are drifting into the desert of doubt and in delity.

These are dark days for Britain's glory. With an army of at least twice the number of Boers opposed to shem, British generals and British soldiers have on four n beaten to a stand-still. With the South African Republica was sent to the Cape for another term of office. He had to deat with the Jameson raid, and it was owing to his integrity and, high-mindedness that any shred of imperial dignity and honor was preserved in South Africa. He successfully withstood Mr. Chamberlain's efforts at interference and violance, until broken down in health he returned to England in 1896.

Mr. Chamberlain then sclosted, as Sir Hercules Robinson's successor, Sir Alfred Milner, whose appointment was highly popular in England. Almost as soon as he arrived, the Prime Minister, Sir Gordon Sprigg, raised the question of British supramasy in Bouth Africa as an electionscring ury. Sir Alfred visited England in 1899

Sir Alfred visited England in 1899 nore than a match for the British