

# 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 *Pall Mall Gazette's* canard of the resignation of Mr. Gladstone, was only a momentary sensation. The denial by Sir Algernon West, following so soon after, gave the report no time to gain any footing. Sir Algernon was Mr. Gladstone's companion at Biarritz, and was authorized by the latter to say. "The statement that Mr. Gladstone has definitely decided, or decided at all, to resign, is untrue. It is true, however, that for many months past his age and the condition of his sight and hearing have, in his judgment made relief from public affairs desirable. Therefore his tenure of office has been at any moment liable to interruption from these cares, which are in their nature permanent. It remains exactly as it has been. He is ignorant of the course which events important to the nation may take even during the remainder of the present session of Parliament, and he has not said or done anything which could in any degree restrain his absolute freedom or that of his colleagues regarding the performance of the arduous duties now lying or likely to lie before them."

The comments of the different journals on the report and denial are not only interesting but amusing, and show very diversified feeling on the subject. The *Standard* (a Tory organ) says: "Its effect upon the fortunes of the ministry and its programme cannot fail to be most damaging and discouraging to his colleagues. They are left virtually without a head, their leader holding himself at liberty to retire at a moment's notice." The *Times* says: "There is no question, however, of Gladstone's withdrawing just now, a fact which any person of common sense might have reflected on when reading the transparently uninspired paragraph which has caused the perturbation. The moment is an absolutely wrong one. With all his faults Mr. Gladstone has never been wanting in political foresight."

A very interesting episode of Mr. Gladstone's stay at Biarritz was a visit paid him by a deputation from the Basque provinces of Spain, they presented him with an address of congratulation on his Home Rule policy for Ireland and also a twig of the famous oak of Guernica, set in gold. The Basques are endeavoring to recover their local privileges which were taken from them after the last Carlist War. The oak of Guernica brings to our minds the closing contest between King John and his barons. This oak is the symbol of liberty of the Basque provinces, as under its spreading branches the representatives of the kings of Spain took an oath to respect their privileges.

It is said that Mr. Gladstone during this visit to Biarritz employed his leisure moments in the study of the Basque language. What wonderful power of will, a man must have at the age of eighty-four to set to work and study a strange tongue, which is said to be very ancient and one of the most difficult in the world. The Basques say of themselves "they are a virtuous people, partly because the devil cannot suggest any evil to them in their tongue." Once, they say, "he tried for a year to learn it, but gave it up as a hopeless task, and has since then been able to hold communication only with such Basques as go down to the cities to learn Spanish."

The well known Catholic journal the *Moniteur de Rome*, is again published, and is full of renewed vigor. We learn from our exchanges the first numbers of the new issue, were seized for their comments on the political and financial situation of Italy.

The Holy Father's Encyclical on the Bible has created a great sensation among the scholars of Europe. It has been lauded by reviews in Germany and England. Several Catholic faculties of France and Belgium have congratulated the Holy Father and expressed their acceptance of the doctrines in that valuable Encyclical, "which" as a Roman correspondent says, "puts an end to the keen and impassioned discussions upon certain interpretations of the Sacred Scriptures which divided the learned in the Catholic World."

A rather wonderful discovery has been made at Salemi, in the Western part of Sicily. A gold coin was found in some depth of the earth, the finder thinking he was coming on some buried gold mine, excavated further. Instead of finding more coins, the foundations of a church were discovered, which was built in the fourth century. It contained two pavements of mosaic, one of which has Greek inscriptions set into it, and the other Latin. A great many articles of value were brought to light, some of which have been taken to the museum at Palermo, and others carried away by the people of the neighboring villages.

On Saturday the 8th ult., the remains of Dr. Wolff, the editor of the *Catholic Standard* were laid to rest in the Catholic cemetery of Norristown, Pa. After the solemn Requiem Mass was sung, an able and feeling discourse was preached by his intimate friend and editorial associate, Rev. Dr. Loughlin, Chancellor of the archdiocese of Philadelphia, whose text was, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a merchant seeking good pearls; who when he had found one pearl of great price, went his way and sold all that

he had and bought it." Matt. xiii., 45-46.

Mr. Blake in his speech in the Boston Music Hall for the benefit of Home Rule, referring to the effect of Mr. Parnell's labours, said: "The suffrage has been widened as Mr. Parnell predicted. The masses of the population in Britain have obtained a much greater share of electoral power. Those masses have been to a great degree enlightened upon the Irish question. But more, much more than Mr. Parnell hoped he accomplished. He made an alliance not only with the Radicals but with the Liberals, and a combined organization, far more powerful than he indicated, was achieved when he came to terms of honorable settlement with Mr. Gladstone. The cause has advanced far faster than it could otherwise have moved, and we must observe in the future the conditions of our successes in the past. The alliance between the British and Irish democracies has shown itself in the House of Commons, where even during the discussions on this very Home Rule Bill, when we were constrained, as a protest against some well-meant but ill-judged concessions, to vote in opposition to some amendments of the Government, the Irish Nationalists found themselves backed by the flower of the English Radical party in numbers even greater than their own. With the British democracy we never had, and at any rate we have not now, any quarrel. Its mind being informed, its heart being moved, its conscience being touched, it has conceded the justice of our claims and is determined to sustain them. And we, on the other hand, looking to the claims of natural equity, to the claims of friendship, to the character and the beneficial results to ourselves of the reforms proposed in the interest of the British democracy, must heartily second the efforts to pass them into law. Thus shall we instead of weakening and breaking, strengthen and cement the alliance upon which we rely, and strengthen the forces by whose aid we are to win."

The death of Mr. George W. Childs, the world-renowned philanthropist is keenly felt in Philadelphia. The *Standard* pays the following just tribute to his memory: "Mr. Childs was known and honored both in the old world and the new, and in his own country was recognized as its premier citizen. Nor was it altogether the largeness of his benefactions, but rather was it the largeness of his motives and the considerate discrimination of his philanthropy, that commended him so warmly to the affection and gratitude of the public, and place his name so high on the scroll of the world's philanthropists." What

a noble character to leave behind! If all men who accumulate fortunes would breathe a little of the benevolence and charity of Mr. Childs there would not be so much distress and abject poverty in our midst.

The Rev. A. P. Doyle, a Paulist Father of New York City, and editor of the *Catholic World*, has written a tract on temperance, for the Temperance Publication Bureau, which is one of the strongest and most beautiful articles written on that subject. He says: "The immense stream of drunkenness bears down on its wave to destruction and death a vast crowd of 75,000 drunkards every year. This stream is likened to the great Niagara River. Above the Falls it is a placid stream and the pleasure seeking rowers confidently push out on its quiet waters. The ripple at the bow and the festive song while away the delightful hours as they merrily float down the river. So the stream of drunkenness—the social glass is attractive, the good-fellowship, the festive song, the companionship in the saloon; all these lull men into security as down the stream they go, till from moderate drinking, they get into the swifter currents of intoxication. Some realize their danger and pull ashore—get behind the barrier the temperance people have built along the bank. They take the pledge or get into a temperance society; in its companionship they find safety. But others, heedless of peril, are getting out into the rapids, and only when they are being plunged down with irresistible force to the cataract do they become sensible of their danger, and then it is too late."

There is every prospect of an immediate and severe agitation against the House of Lords. The fact that they have wrecked the three great measures of the session by rejecting the Home Rule Bill, by mangling the Employers' Liability Bill and also that of the Parish Councils, is telling with tremendous force against them. Prof. Bryce who is regarded as one of the most conservative amongst the members of Gladstone's Government in a speech lately, said: "If the Lords choose to force a conflict, the conflict must be faced and an effort made to clear away the bar, on which so many vessels freighted with useful legislation have been wrecked."

The Wilson Bill is not faring very well in the United States Senate. A series of amendments threaten to whittle it down, so that it will be a tariff reform only in name.

Rev. Dr. Douglas the well-known Methodist preacher and Equal Rights' Leader died at Montreal on the 10th instant.