The Catholic Register.

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

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Current Topics.

The Boer War. There has during the past week been only such skirmishing as the British were obliged to do to protect their positions and the lines of communication. All the activity was on the side of the Boers who accordingly made the fighting, with the result that the British were kept on the alert, but not drawn or forced into any considerable engagement. Roberts has been reported, for the last few days, as ready for the advance on Pretoria but so far no advance has been made. The reasons for the delay in resuming offensive operations continue to be the necessity of clearing the British flanks and rear from menace, to safeguard the lines of communication, to accumulate stores in case of an interruption of these lines, and the want of horses. On the other hand the respite has given the Boers time to recover from the confusion into which the surrender of Cronje and the march on Bloemfontein threw them. They are said to have strongly fortified themselves at Kroonstad, where they are prepared to dispute Roberts' advance. Wepener has been the scene of active and continued operations, where General Brabant's forces have been surrounded. The Boers have also been very much in evidence at Elandslaagte, at Borshof, where they attempted to capture a convoy of General Methuen's, and at Mafeking, which determined little stronghold still holds out.

The Canadian Contingent. The first and second battalions of the Canadian Mounted Rifles Regiment and Strathcona's Horse under Col. Alderson were engaged in the action to drive the Boers from their line of defence south of the waterworks in the neighborhood of Bloemfontein. The Canadians sustained a heavy fire. The utility and efficiency of the Canadian troops have thus again been promptly recognized. Quite a number of the men are reported as seriously ill of enteric fever; also the death of trooper Woocomb (probably Woolcomb of Edmonton.)

It seems that on Saturday last the Canadian Mounted Infantry, sent to reconnoiter the Boer position, approached within 300 yards of a farm flying the hospital flag, under cover of which the Boers opened such a hot fire on the Canadians that they were unable to attempt to retire until another force of Canadians covered their retreat by threatening the rear of the Boer position.

The Filipino War. Ever since the opening of hostilities in South Africa, interest in the sanguinary establishment of supremacy in the Philippines has languished. But the work of bloodshed and the squeezing out of the life of an incipient nationality has been going on all the same. The Filipinos have not yet been conquered nor American authority acknowledged. Last week is said to have been one of the bloodiest of the war since the first day's fighting around Manila: Authentic reports show a total of 378 Filipinos killed, 12 officers and 244 men captured, and many more wounded. As the Filipinos entirely lack hospital facilities a great majority of the wounded are likely to die. The week's work will be in the neighborhood of 1000 Filipinos. The American loss was 9 killed and 16 wounded. The Americans have made but little headway towards subduing the islanders and can only claim a fringe of country near Manila. So long as McKinley prosecutes this military enterprise, Americans should have nothing condemnatory to say about the war in South Africa. It is the widely prevailing opinion that both butcheries are largely the result of greed and rapacity and were avoidable, but the Americans should call off their men in the Philippines and by so doing give a good example to great Britain. Mercy as well as charity should, sometimes, begin at home.

The Welland Canal Incident. Quite a sensation was caused by a deliberate attempt on Sunday evening last to blow up with dynamite lock 24 of the new Welland Canal at Thorold. Three men have been arrested and speculation has been rife as to the motives of the dastardly attempt. There can be no palliation of the deed because of the want of complete success. The fact remains; the object was to destroy the efficiency of the Canal, and it was of such a nature as to stir public opinion to its depths. All kinds of rumors are flying around. Some ascribe the deed to opposition to the Conners syndicate, others to the grain shovellers' trouble in Buffalo, and others again to Boer sympathizers on the other side. The prevailing opinion seems to be that the attempt aimed at preventing the grain, that would otherwise go to Buffalo, from coming through the Canal and down the St. Lawrence route. All this is mere conjecture, but the moving power behind the perpetrators of the deed may be revealed by the trial. The general impression is that the prisoners are hirelings of capitalists or labor to cripple the Welland Canal, with a view of diverting the traffic of the upper lakes from Montreal to Buffalo.

The Higher Criticism. The so-called Higher Criticism rendered bold by fancied triumph in the demolition of the truth and authority of the Sacred Scriptures has, as a matter of consequence, invaded the circumscribed domain of dogma in the Protestant churches. Singularly enough the Presbyterian faith has suffered the most and a new reformation threatens it, in which the doctrine of predestination and church authority are force doomed. The New York Sun commenting on the crisis which has arisen in the Presbyterian church says, "Dr. Hillis of Brooklyn is horrified by the doctrine of election of the Westminister confession, yet without it that whole standard of faith would fall to pieces."

Diminution in Church Attendance. There has been a great deal of speculation indulged in concerning the falling off of Church attendance at the Sunday services. The New York Sun in a lengthy editorial discussed the problem. The writer admits that no such falling off exists in in the case of the Catholic Churches. He says,

"Apparently the Roman Catholic churches are not suffering from it. Their many services seem to be as numerously attended as ever; but whether the aggregate of the people is as great, proportionately to the population, as it was formerly, we are not informed precisley; but it seems to be."

On the other hand he admits the decline in attendance at the Protestant churches and states the real reason why people stay at home is that they have lost belief in the sermons and religious services and in their necessity to the soul's salvation—that declining church attendance is a consequence of diminishing faith.

United States Correspondence.

(*From our own Contributor.*)

CHICAGO, April 21st, 1900.

Prominent Catholics are of the opinion that the two vacant sees of Dubuque and Columbus will be filled by Illinois clergymen. The most prominently mentioned are Bishop John L. Spalding of Peoria and Rev. Thomas Pope Hodnett of St. Malachy's church in this city, the former it is thought, will take the chair made vacant by the death of Archbishop Hennessy and it is expected that the Chicago priest will be put in charge of the Columbus diocese. Both ecclesiastics are already well known to fame.

CATHOLIC GROWTH.

The official growth of the Catholic Church in America is likely to be very considerable during the coming twelve-month. The diocese of Omaha is to be made an archdiocese, making fifteen archdioceses in the United States. It will be given as its province the States of Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming and probably Colorado. At least four coadjutors are to be named, one of them for the archdiocese of Chicago, and the other for that of Indianapolis. Four dioceses and one archdiocese are waiting to be filled. In the South many new priests are being called for, missionary work there being especially active at this time. Efforts are making to establish much stronger centers of Catholic interest and influence than now exist in Nashville, Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis and Dallas, these points being held to be strategic. Calls are many also for priests willing to go to new territorial possessions. Volunteers are asked. Few have yet been accepted, but the Catholic authorities are preparing themselves for whatever may happen. They are determined to hold their ground in Cuba and in the Philippines if hard work will do it, and if the emergency arises they have a long list of American priests ready to take service in these fields, which are new to American Catholic control.

A GREAT PHILOLOGICAL WORK.

Father Robert W. Haire, a member of the South Dakota state board of regents, on which he has served for many years as secretary, has just completed a book which is likely to attract unusual attention in learned circles and make the author famous.

"Father Haire is a man of scholarly attainments," said Doane Robinson, the well-known South Dakota poet, who was permitted to examine the manuscript, which is now ready for the publisher, "and his great philological work must take rank as one of the greatest literary achievements of the century. It is difficult to find a word which defines the character of the work, but in a sentence it develops each of the nearly 700 Aryan root-words forward through the Sanscrit, Erse, Greek, Latin, and Germanic languages to English. As the product of a single pen it is only equaled by the work of Noah Webster in the production of his dictionary. In some instances more than 2,000 English words are brought up from one Aryan root."

PUERTO RICO CONDITIONS.

Congress has voted Puerto Rico $2,000,000 to relieve the great distress prevailing in that Island. The bill providing a government for the Island has passed both the House and the Senate but has not yet become a law. It imposes a duty of 15 per cent on imports from that country to the United States and from the United States to that country. It has been a hard pill for many republican representatives and senators to swallow. The president's "plain duty" recommendation of free trade was not followed. One of the first things necessary there is the establishment of schools. The children are very quick to learn when they have the opportunity. The people of the Island number about 975,000, and are practically of one blood, although the more cultivated class who are Spaniards, would be unwilling to admit the fact. Eighty-seven per cent of the people are illiterate, and it is said that 65 per cent are of illegitimate birth. The native Porto Rican is as straight as an Indian with slight frame, large feet and small head. The mixture of Spanish blood has refined his negro coarseness and has "given him a straight nose, mild, black eye, and rich olive skin." The young men are active and the young women well-shaped and attractive. Girls become wives and mothers at an age when they should be playing with dolls. Bananas are their principal article of food and they give them a deformity known as the "banana stomach." Neither do the people nor the birds sing. Gambling and cockfighting are the popular vices.

WHAT A DASH OF APPREHENSION DOES.

An American journalist of large reputation remarks: War is expensive and liable to run to an excess which strains its so much vaunted regenerative attributes, but it seems to have a good effect on manners. Think how polite our gentlemen were to Spanish gentlemen when they came near enough to exchange compliments in our late war. So Queen Victoria, stirred by grateful emotions, retrospective, existent, and anticipatory, is projecting a reunion, long, long deferred, with her devoted Irish subjects. See, too, the British colonial troops preferred and honored in South Africa. A dash of apprehension is a wonderful stimulater of consideration.

GREAT EUROPEAN IMMIGRATION.

There is a great rush of European immigration now to the United States. The next preponderance is from the Southern or Catholic States. During the last quarter of 1899 the increase of Slovack immigration was 121 per cent, Polish 94, Croatian 85, and so on including Italian, down to German 10 per cent and Irish only 16 per cent. There was not a decrease in any. The principal cause of this great immigration is imperialism and militarism. The Anglo-Saxons don't like it; notwithstanding, in a few years they will be setting them all down as "Anglo-Saxons." The construction of a tunnel at New York to cost $35,000,000, and for which an Irishman named McDonald has the contract, will give employment to many of these new comers.

A TYPICAL "YANKEE"

Russell says, the New York Capitalist is a typical yankee, a species, I am happy to say, which is becoming extinct. One day last week he purchased an "extra" from a small boy forming one of a group of newsvenders and paid one cent for it. Finding it was not what he wanted he walked back, sought out the urchin he purchased from and demanded back his money. Some newspapers are blaming him for this, but he is only one of a type, and sometimes a much belauded type. Whether it be the bible, the granite character of the soil, the thin corpulcs of the blood, the living apart from one another, or the teachings of "Poor Richard" that has made the Yankee so miserly, there is no doubt of the fact. Whether it be a newsboy, a widow or an orphan or a "pure body" that is affected "business is business" all the same, with your "Down Easter." In California, where your correspondent resided so long he recounted the opposite of this type in the Southerner, whose proclivities ran the other way and was "generous to a fault." "Yankee shrewdness" is one thing, Yankee meanness is another. In my early youth in a certain Canadian town where there was an American Colony, I saw this meanness in many matters exemplified in men that were known by such sobriquets as "Yankee" Smith, "Lignum vitæ" Clark, "Hickory" Mills, etc.

SOME FIRE EPISODES.

On Friday evening, March 30th, one of the finest theatres in Chicago was destroyed by fire. It was called the Columbia and was christened by Miss Helen Terry. It was built for "Jack" Haverly some twenty years ago, and I had a personal interest in it because it was open on the evening of the day. I returned to Chicago after an absence of two years. To meet an emergency the house was built in three months. It was a marvel of rapid work. The burned house abutted on another that was in danger from the conflagration. That was the "Marquette," a very tall structure. At the time the Columbia theatre was built the structure that occupied then the site of the Marquette was known as the Honore, and named after Potter Palmer's father-in-law. One of the worst fires I ever saw was in that building in the winter of 1878. It was a magnificent out stone structure, five stories high, with fluted columns in Parisian style. Among the occupants were the post office and General Sheridan's headquarters. The night was bitter cold, the freezing being considerable below zero. The water froze in the nozzles of the firemen's hose pipes. There were about twenty engines on the scene endeavoring to throw water upon the building, in front, in rear and from the roofs of adjacent houses. No blaze was visible but there was smoke so wide spread and dense that it not only filled the adjoining streets but drove spectators from them; and when the fire department succeeded in confining the fire to that particular building it was considered a marvel of skill and Chief Michael J. Sweeny was credited with another victory. The old fire fighter is still the Chicago chief and is acknowledged to be one of the most expert fire extinguishers in the world. This, however, is not the end of my story. The structure was rebuilt and two additional stories put to it. The Honore building was grander and apartments in it more in demand than ever. For a few further years it held its ground, but then a new spirit of change or progress if you will, came over the "windy City." The sky-scraper became the mania, and what do you think but that stately structure that had for years been the admiration of my eyes, was pulled down stone by stone and brick by brick, and a new foundation deep and strong laid with structural iron, to prepare the way for a sixteen-story office building. Working day and night it took about a year to build it.

LABOR TROUBLES.

There were stoppages from time to time and labor revolution. The time marked an era and all changes and efforts for improvements bring sacrifices and frequently death. It was, I think, while the lathing and plastering was being done I was sitting in a second-story window of an opposite building talking to a friend when I noticed a man running around a corner of the new building with a crowd after him, until he reached the other corner and was met and headed off by another man, who aimed a blow at him. The fleeing man was armed with a revolver and blew his antagonist's brains out! This was the only homicide I ever witnessed, and it made a decided impression upon me. The grief of it was that the young man whose life was sacrificed bore a most excellent reputation and was greately mourned by his companions. His assailant, who was a Canadian; was tried for the offense and acquitted, because a clear case of self-defence was established. A few months ago I read of a similar case, and I believe such fatal fracases are of common occurrence. The remedy is compulsory arbitration. We have voluntary arbitration in labor troubles here but it is of no real value.

THE MARQUETTE BUILDING.

The building that has taken the place of the "Honore" and at the erection of which the tragedy I have here described took place, is dedicated to Pere Marquette, the apostle of Illinois, because Wisconsin claims him as well as Illinois. He was a Jesuit father, born in Laon, France, in 1637. He was not only a missionary but an explorer and founder of civilization. He with his companions were the first white men to penetrate our forests, gaze upon our prairies, soil, on our lakes and rivers and discover the Father of Waters, the Mississippi. His spirit was so gentle, his perseverance so great and his end so sad that there is a pathetic interest in his memory, and no historic name is more regarded in the northwest than that of Pere Marquette. He was the first white man to set foot on the soil of Chicago, where he wintered in 1665 on his way back from his great discovery, but next spring he died on the way to Mackinaw, where his mission house was established. The vestibule of the building is ornamented with a number of splendid large bronze medallions illustrating scenes in his life among the Indians, who adored him.

Ireland and the Queen.

The reception accorded to the Queen, says The Dublin Freeman's Journal, has amply vindicated the Irish reputation for kindly and courteous hospitality. No word or action marred the dull graciousness of that reception. But there must be no attempt to misinterpret or misrepresent the attitude or feeling of the people. It was not to the Queen, it was not to the head, the type embodiment and supreme representative of the Empire, but to an aged and feeble lady that this kindly Irish welcome was afforded. Whenever that welcome was demonstrative it was partisan, when it was national it was restrained within the bounds that courtesy demanded. The Unionists saw, or made pretence to see, in the coming of the Queen a counter demonstration to Home Rule, and decorated, illuminated, and applauded with partisan enthusiasm. The Nationalists accepted the assurance that the visit was private and non-political, and refrained from counter-demonstration. But of loyalty in the sense in which the word is understood in England, the body of the people feel no touch and gave no sign.

It is a weakness of the Irish character, but a weakness surely that leans to virtue's side, that the nation is ever prone to trust too readily to friendly professions, to forget and forgive at the first vague hint of repentance and atonement. This is assuredly no time for recriminations. But the fact is not to be forgotten that there is nothing in her Majesty's treatment of this country, nothing in her attitude towards the religious creed or the national aspirations of the people to evoke the devoted loyalty of the Catholics or Nationalists of Ireland. On the contrary; so far as the limits of constitutional reserve would permit, she had made clear her hostility to the conciliatory policy of the greatest statesman that has adorned her reign. But the welcome that her age and sex claimed from the Irish people was none the less cheerfully accorded. The temptation to make her coming the opportunity for strong protest that would command attention against the hateful system of British government in Ireland was resisted with wonderful forbearance. A certain admiration indeed mingled with the courtesy of the welcome. It was no slight task for one of her age and feebleness that has been carried out by her Majesty in visiting this country after forty years of neglect. The crossing of the Channel tries the strength of the young and active. The wearisome journey to Dublin was an awful strain and ordeal the Queen cheerfully undertook in the interest, we are bound to believe, of the vast Empire that owns her sway. Such self-devotion, however prompted, appealed to the generous heart of Ireland. Our poet tells of the young and beautiful lady who trusted herself "to Erin's honour and Erin's pride." The age and feebleness of the Queen made still more powerful appeal.

But the reception stopped at the point that would imply contentment with the existing system or the abatement by a hair's breadth of the National demand. The majority of the Corporation outstepped the mandate of their constituents when they voted her same Corporation, in a subsequent resolution on the very eve of her arrival took occasion to disclaim the imputation of loyalty or contentment in the presentation. Herein at least they rightly interpreted the feelings of the citizens of Dublin. The address itself is framed on those lines. It is welcome, not loyalty, that it offers to her Majesty. Yet so easy is it for British officials to misinterpret Irish feeling that in the reply which is made in the name of the Queen the Corporation is thanked for what they never offered to her Majesty. Ireland can sympathise with the widow's devotion to her dead husband. But though Irish valour has once more turned the tide of battle when English soldiers failed Ireland does not sympathise with the cruel war against justice and liberty in which that valour was so conspicuously displayed. Emphatic protest against that war had been put on record by the Corporation that presented the address to which the Queen's speech was offered as a reply.

Yesterday's reception is indeed a reply to those who declare the Irish people to be so rooted in resentment at the centuries of oppression to which the country has been subjected that conciliation is impossible even by the tardy concession of justice and liberty, and that perpetual coercion is the only safe policy with Ireland which former coercion had permanently estranged. The reception shows on the contrary that Ireland does not merit the praise which Dr. Johnson bestowed as a good hater, however thoroughly England has merited her hate. In the midst of misery and poverty and oppression she lacks gall to make oppression bitter. She is eager even yet to respond to any offer of friendship leased on liberty and justice. When yesterday's demonstration was most brilliant in the wide space of College Green, where flags and banners flittered in most brilliant profusion, the desecrated home of the eloquence and patriotism of the Irish Parliament fronted the royal procession. High over the centre of the throng towered the gigantic figure of immortal Grattan on the living bronze that Foly wrought. With hand out stretched, with every muscle strained and tense with passionate patriotism, he stands a monument of protest against the savage cruelty, the flagrant corruption, which robbed the nation of the liberty which his courage and genius had secured. Till that liberty is restored, carrying prosperity and contentment in its train, there can be no true loyalty in Ireland.

ARCHBISHOP O'CONNOR'S ILLNESS.

We learn, as we go to press that the condition of His Grace Archbishop O'Connor is steadily improving.

Visit of Mgr. Falconio, the Delegate Apostolic.

Mgr. Falconio, the Delegate Apostolic, will pay a visit to Toronto, arriving in the city on Thursday, May 3rd. A reception by the clergy of the Diocese will be tendered to him at St. Michael's Palace on Thursday at 10 A.M., to be followed by Pontifical Mass, sung by the Bishop of Peterborough, at 10.30. After Mass a short address will be presented to His Excellency in the name of the clergy and laity of the Diocese.

Fact or Fancy.

Women and Horses.

No. 16

Can anyone tell me why it is that women of breeding love horses and stand in dread of a cow. Is it the difference of a pair of horns? Most women are either entirely fearless with horses, or, if naturally timid, look upon the vanquishment of fear in regard to horses as a proud conquest. In England horse races and horse shows are patronized greatly by the fair sex; in the United States, horse shows; but horse races (trotting) not to anything like the same extent. The horse show has likewise become one of the most fashionable events in Toronto Society—the seats selling at a premium. There are few positions in which a lady of good figure shows to greater advantage than on horse-back. There is also a traditional respectability and dignity that attach to the horse. The time was when riding was not only a graceful accomplishment, but also a necessity among those who had any pretensions to rank or social position. The possession of a fine hunter or roadster was a material sign of wealth or position. Even after railroads and increased convenience of travel came into fashion, the horse held his own in the esteem of the sex. Most English young women of birth at least still learn how to ride and all know how to drive. There is nothing yet in England that gives the stamp of gentility, in the best sense of the word, so surely as the possession of a good horse and a good seat on it. I have often wondered how it is that in Canada, where horses are cheap and plentiful and distances most generous, more of our men and women do not ride. It is not because they are not fond of knocking about as the saying is. The extensive use of the bicycle within a brief period proves the contrary. It is probably due to a variety of reasons, the chief of which is that the most of Canadian travel, upon grounds of economy, came to be conducted in winter; sleighing became the mode—a mode far more comfortable along a snowy road and in a cold atmosphere than riding. Amongst the select sets in American society, the horse has become an object of female popular fancy and admiration, which is most in evidence at horse shows, where more than horses, be it said, do congregate.

The horsey girl is said to be on the wane. In view of the common use this. The cream of society jikes to be and in the ordinary course of things will be found on the top of the milk. Love of the horse will yet supersede love of the bicycle and, in my opinion, there is no comparison between the two upon physical or æsthetical grounds. The real difference lies, I presume, in the length of the purse and in the leisure of the individual. At horsey resorts it is becoming more and more the fashion for girls to do the driving—the man only being retained to sustain conversation and to be ready in case of a "spill." So expert, however, have the girls become even at driving tandem that country folks at the sight of them no longer drive into the fences or into the first rustic alley that presents itself. The horsey girl in England is found among the daughters of the nobility and the landed gentry—just the girl whom the American girl with aristocratic proclivities would like to be like. But to ape the fashions, the whims, the eccentricities of the English aristocracy has in certain sections of Gotham hitherto been looked upon as a crime. Not so now. The war with Spain and the Anglo-American Alliance not yet accomplished have revolutionized American sentiment. "We are all English—don't you know—or Anglo—Saxon—or Anglo—Something, which has not yet been quite settled." But the revulsion of feeling must have been a great relief to aristocratic American Society—and not the least to the American Society girl.

The spring-like weather acts on the human system in the same way as the early sunny days act on the arterial system of the emblem tree of Canada. Bicycles are again out in reeling numbers and the season promises to be a record one. An eminent Boston physician speaking of gymnasiums and physical culture among the wealthier classes adds,

"But the poor shop girl received no benefit from it and it was not until the bicycle had become the most important fixture in the accoutrements of every up-to-date maiden that this class began to realize the virtues which were theoretically deduced from studies on the value of exercise. So important a feature is the bicycle in this period I have termed the renaissance, that it is called the bicycle age, and it is well worthy to be called such, for, in my opinion, the bicycle, will do more, under the proper conditions, to renovate the health of women than any invention of the times.

"Strange as it may seem, a bicycle ride is rest for the worn-out shop girl; it will remove the headache which treadling a sewing machine has brought on, it will restore color and glow to the cheeks, bring back a long-lost appetite, and better still, it will stimulate the organs of digestion to increased function, enable them to make the most of their contents with perfect digestion and assimilation; finally, it will bring to the needy that great and blessed restorer, sleep."

T. S.