

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1891

DR. DYRENFORTH'S rain-producing experiments in Kansas having been pronounced successful, they appear to have opened a new region for the operations of practical science.

THE Hon. Mr. Justice Lynch has made a speech which has carried dismay into the ranks of the Protestant Committee of the Council of Education.

A broad view of the situation in Europe will show that one power only menaces the peace. Germany, threatened by France on one side and Russia on the other, is compelled to maintain her attitude as an armed nation on the defensive.

THE devil appears to have established a regular cult of his own, in the Theosophy of which the notorious Mrs. Besant has lately become the high priestess.

which she was associated with the late Charles Bradlaugh. According to the story she has given out, she had become the pupil of one of the Mahatmas of the Himalayas—the same gentleman who communicated with Madame Blavatsky—and that from him she had received letters by precipitation out of the air, as her late friend did.

THE RUMORS ABOUT THE POPE.

The reports concerning the possibility of the Pope leaving Rome, or more correctly, perhaps, being forced to leave by the present Government, may be taken as at least indicating a strong probability.

"And this talk about the Pope leaving Rome?" "I believe it is all imaginary. I don't think the Pope has even for an instant thought of it, nor are there any cardinals in Rome who are of that opinion."

"That is very difficult to gather. The Italians are not allowed to speak or to hold public meetings in defence of the Pope. Anybody who protests against the position of the Pope as unworthy of him is amenable to the laws of the land and subject to fine and imprisonment."

events. If the Pope were a mere temporal sovereign the force that has been used against him would have destroyed him, but he is the head of the Church, he rules over millions of people, scattered throughout the world, and that mission is divine, and to exercise that mission he requires independence.

But allowing for exaggeration and the generally untrustworthiness of such despatches, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that the Pope may be forced to leave Rome. The bitter hostility to the Holy See exhibited by the Roman Government has received new proof, if it was needed, from an article in the current number of the North American Review.

IRELAND.

The state of parties in Ireland is not so satisfactory as the friends of the old land had reason to hope for. When the unfortunate occurrences took place which led to the split in the ranks of the Parliamentary party, the friends of the cause of Home Rule in America wisely refrained from taking sides in a fratricidal issue.

A STRANGE DOCTRINE.

A great deal of surprise has been caused in England by one of the most eminent physicians of the day, Dr. Mortimer Grenville, coming out as an apologist for drinking. He boldly asserted that so far from it being an evil it was found that those who drink, even to excess, live longer and are less liable to the "ills of the flesh" than the temperance men.

position within the past few years. The consideration of drunkenness is now a matter of hygiene more than anything else and has to be treated in precisely the same manner as any other disease.

MISAPPREHENSION.

The Witness of Oct. 27th has the following:— One asks whether Mr. O'Brien is entirely ignorant of history or whether he counts upon the present generation of Roman Catholics being entirely ignorant of history when he denounces the Church of England, since the days of Henry the Eighth, for having become a state church and having thus destroyed the religious liberty of the people.

We do not at all wonder that Monsignor O'Brien's denunciation of State Churchism passes the Witness's comprehension. It is a question of First Principles, in which, still more than in deductions from those principles, Catholics differ from Protestants.

Queen Mary, however great may have been her severity, was far less "bloody" than her wife-killing father and her persecuting, illegitimate half-sister Elizabeth.

ITALY.

Ex-Prime Minister Crispi, in the November number of the North American Review, has given the first part of his article on Italy and the Pope. As might be expected from a man of his antecedents, his strictures on His Holiness are far from friendly.

not at all troubled about vested rights or ancient and time-honored privileges. He proceeds to deal with the history of Napoleon's treachery and tyranny, and draws a comparison altogether favorable to the Italian Government with reference to its mode of dealing with the Holy Father.

PROTESTANTS IN FRANCE.

On reading the Witness reporter's interview with the Rev. Daniel Cousinat, a Presbyterian, who says that "the Protestant spirit prevails in France not only in society but in the Government of the country," we could not help exclaiming, "What an axiom!"

However, it may be well to remind the Witness that French Protestants would smile at the ignorant bigotry so complacently displayed in its columns.

HON. MR. CHAPLEAU'S ALLEGED RESIGNATION.

Up to the moment of our going to press, there are all kinds of rumors regarding the resignation of the Hon. Mr. Chapleau, Secretary of State in the Dominion Government.

Mr. Tarte is evidently at work in his usual sphere. The best answer to the statement that Mr. Curran has always been an enemy of Mr. Chapleau will be found in the following extract from a short speech delivered by the Secretary of State at the Temple Building, on the occasion of Mr. Curran's acceptance of the candidature for Montreal Centre, in February last.

bered the first time he had met Mr. Curran, in a political way, in 1857, and referred to the great services he had rendered him in Terrobonne, where he was a candidate for the first time, and which he had represented ever since.

"THE SUNBEAM."

In next week's number of THE TRUE WITNESS our subscribers will receive a sample copy of THE SUNBEAM, a monthly illustrated children's paper, which will be published by THE TRUE WITNESS, under the supervision of a priest of the diocese.

The following graceful tribute to Mr. Curran, M.P. for Montreal Centre, appears in the editorial columns of an esteemed contemporary, the Catholic Review, of Toronto:—

The Montreal Gazette, in a late editorial, speaking of the appointment of Mr. C. J. Doherty, of that city,—a position which, by the way, there is every reason to believe was first tendered to Mr. J. J. Curran, Q.C., M.P., and by him refused,—pays a graceful compliment to the gifted Irishman who represents Montreal Centre in the Dominion Parliament, and whose name is as well known and honored in Ontario as it is in Quebec.

It is understood that the appointment of Mr. C. J. Doherty to the Superior Court Bench has actually been made. Judge Doherty is a young man to all so high a post, but those who have followed his career at the Bar will have no doubt as to his fitness for his new duties.

The Brussels Courier publishes a decree, alleged to have been issued by the late Pope Pius IX., with reference to future conclaves. The decree confirms the exclusive right of the cardinals to elect a Pope free from any intervention on the part of the powers.

The Mortality of The City. Last week the mortality of Montreal amounted to 97—80 Catholics and 17 Protestants.