

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The recent action of Mgr. Satolli, the apostolic delegate in America of the Holy See, in sustaining a decision made by Bishop John A. Watterson, of Columbus, Ohio, is looked upon generally as one of the heaviest blows that have been dealt the liquor traffic during many years. The facts of the case are in brief as follows :—

During the last Lenten season Bishop Watterson addressed a letter to the clergy of his diocese to be read before their congregations. The letter dwelt wholly with the temperance problem, and in it Bishop Watterson said :—

I hereby withdraw my approbation from any and every Catholic society, or branch or division thereof, in this diocese, that has a liquor dealer or saloon-keeper at its head or anywhere amongst its officers, and I suspend every such society itself from its rank and privileges as a Catholic society until it ceases to be so officered. Happily there is not much occasion now for such suspension. I again publish the condition, without which, for some years past, I have declined to approve of new societies or new branches of old organizations in this diocese, viz. :—

“That no one who is engaged, either as principal or agent, in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors can be admitted to membership.”

To many of the people in the diocese of Columbus, this action of Bishop Watterson seemed unduly severe, and one of the societies laid the matter formally before Mgr. Satolli. After a time the apostolic delegate returned an answer, upholding the position of the bishop. Still the society was not satisfied, and it was said that the delegate did not understand the case. The bishop heard of the expressed discontent, and asked another society to take the