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. Lord Roberts has been given possession of Pretoria, and the resistance that the Boers can hereafter offer to the British cannot be very effective. Lord Roberts seems to get all the credit, and he is destined to be the proclaimed hero of the war. Gen. Buller, who has done more sledge-hammer work than all combined, Gen. White, who so nobly defended Ladysmith, and Major Gen. Baden-Powell, who displayed more individuality than anyone else, are all in the background Kitchener is not heard of at all; in fact, it would be hard guessing for anyone to say where Kitchener could be found. The operations during the last fortnight no doubt displayed wonderful ability, but that all is not over yet is proclaimed by the despatch from Lord Roberts since his entry into Pretoria, announcing the loss of an entire battalion, the 18th Imperial Yeomanry. That the Boers did not defend Pretoria with the stubbornness it was anticipated is a matter of gratification, even to those who are not in sympathy with the war. The result would eventually have been the same, and by their withdrawing much life and property has been spared.

Gen. Botha and most of his men got away from Pretoria. T' is is inferred from Lord Roberts' message, but the presumption is that the Boer commandant-general cannot escape the British dispositions without a fight.

Operations elsewhere seem to have dwindled to nothing. Gen. Baden-Powell joined Gen. Hunter on Sunday at Lichtenberg.

Sir Redvers Buller has not moved.

Mr. Bennett Burleigh, wiring from Johannesburg, says President Kruger took £2,000,000 in cash to Middleburg.

Mr. Burleigh and Mr. Scul, an American, entered Johannesburg the night before Lord Roberts occupied the city, and made a tour of it unmolested by the armed burghers.

The Fall of Pretoria. The official news of the fall of Pretoria which has been received has come just in time to save the demonstration of last week from appearing ridiculous. The scantily clothed gentlemen and frowsy-headed ladies who made the welkin-ring and frightened sleep away with their shouts of triumph on the nights of last Wednesday and Thursday, would feel very foolish indeed if compelled to read evening after evening bulletins describing the progress of the siege of the Boer capital, the capture of which they so vigorously celebrated. They have every reason to be grateful to the invincible "Bobs" for coming to the rescue sufficiently soon to make their rejoicing seem premature instead of ridiculous. That it was not altogether free from the latter reproach is evident from the tone of the papers that certainly cannot be accused of lack of enthusiasm in the British cause. The Toronto Telegram, in a sensible article, protests strongly against another Pretoria holiday this week, and furthermore declares that the hanging and burning of effigies of Oom Paul, and the hissing of his pictures, which formed such prominent features of last week's demonstrations, was not a pretty custom. It is, however, as the editor asserts, and as Israel Tarte could testify, a custom not at all reserved for unpopular Boers, and not originated in Toronto. It is, in fact, a universal and most expressive mode of showing hatred or contempt, and is a striking illustration of the truth of the position on which the Catholic veneration of sacred images rests, namely, that the honor or dishonor paid to the image is directed to the one represented. It is a pity that the editor referred to did not add this reflection to his editorial comments. He, however, probably feared its effects on the nervous systems of many of the incendiaries of old Oom Paul's effigies.

However, his manly protest against some of the proposed perpetrated extravagances of last week's demonstration (one of the worst was an illustration in the World which must have been perpetrated by some sympathizer with the Boer cause, such a libel was it on Toronto's citizens) encourages the hope that due appreciation will be shown for the brave and skilful fight made by the Boers against overwhelming odds. Indeed one of the brightest features of the war has been the ungrudging acknowledgment by each side of the splendid bravery of their opponents. It is to be hoped that this is the spirit in which the work of pacification, now that the war is nearly over, will be carried out. Brave opponents, when conquered, generally treated, oftentimes become the best of friends. There is every reason why this should take place in South Africa. The Boers see their brothers in Cape Colony enjoying all the rights of British subjects, and occupying the highest positions. Their wounded and prisoners, during the war, have received every attention and courtesy a generous foe could give. Now, that they have learned to respect Britain's military power, which has in a few weeks swept over their country and captured their capital practically without a struggle, it is to be hoped that British generosity will, in a few years, win their loyalty.

The Canadian Contingents. That the Canadians have still work assigned to them, and that they do it well, is again demonstrated by the despatches. If this war has done nothing else, it has demonstrated that a large standing army is not necessary to guarantee the security of a country from foreign enemies. Wherever opportunity offered, the volunteer or irregular battalions were as adapt and courageous as any of the permanently organized regiments. The newly reported deaths, both in the field and hospital, are to be regretted. May the war soon end, and the anxiety of those who have relatives in South Africa be permanently relieved.

France Has Trouble. Special despatches from Algiers portray a serious situation. Thousands of Moors are massing at Figuig, and in the neighborhood, preparing for a determined attack upon the advanced posts of the French. The French columns have joined hands at Zoubia; but the men suffer terribly from heat and thirst, while hundreds of camels died. The French are preparing entrenchments, and are confident of their ability to repel an attack, and even to take the offensive against Figuig if necessary.

Pope to American Prelates.

An "occasional" of the New York Sun writes from Rome that a considerable number of American Catholics have made Holy Year pilgrimages and are now attending the ceremonies in Rome. They are described as being in charge of the Archbishops of St. Louis and New Orleans, and the Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie. They have been received by the Pope to whom they presented 820,000 Peter's pence, and a number of costly presents.

The Pope received at a special audience, the three prelates named, and talked on a number of American questions, including Americanism. The Pope referred in tones of severity to Archbishop Ireland's letter to the Duke of Norfolk. The letter, he said, ought never to have been written.

There was, continued His Holiness, a deplorable laxity of discipline in the Church in North America. Certain prelates appeared to forget that the maintenance of discipline and concord among the faithful was one of the first duties of those responsible, for without it Catholics ran the danger of becoming a mere rabble, like members of heretical churches in England.

The Pope declared in conclusion, that the Catholic Church could not be nationalized. There were neither Italian Catholics nor American Catholics; all were Roman Apostolic Catholics.

Monsignor Forest subsequently stated that the Pope seemed to be in excellent health.

"What most surprised me," continued the Archbishop, "was the Pope's actual youthfulness of appearance. He seems to get younger every time I see him. His memory is simply marvellous; he knows the American dioceses even better than the Bishops."

Death of the Bishop of Portsmouth.

We regret to record the death of the right Rev. Dr. Vertue (Bishop of Portsmouth), which occurred recently at Bishops House, Portsmouth. His Lordship had been ailing for some time, but the immediate cause of death was blood-poisoning the result of a slight cut while paring a corn. Bishop Vertue, who served as army chaplain for some years, was born in London on April 28, 1826, was consecrated by Cardinal Manning on July 25, 1887, and was 74 years of age at the time of his death. His first clerical appointment was at Poplar, and afterwards as a military chaplain he served in various parts of the world. While at Bermuda he was mentioned in the General Army Orders, and received the special thanks of the War Office for his attention to fever-stricken soldiers. Since his appointment as Bishop of Portsmouth a Cathedral, eighteen churches, and two orphanages have been built, besides numerous schools. May he rest in peace.

Were it not for wine and passion some men would never speak the truth.

Fame never blows her trumpet for a man who is too lazy to raise the wind.

When a girl begins to take a comic valentine seriously she has reached the age limit.

The War in South Africa.

Letters from the Nursing Sisters.

Subjoined are copies of letters received by the Rev. Mother General, Nazareth House, Hammersmith, and from Sister-Superior, Nazareth House, Capetown, dated 25th April, 1900.

Thank you and all those who sent the big box with clothing, Rosaries, Scapulars, etc., for the soldiers, which has arrived. We are always glad to have something to give the poor soldiers. May God bless all those who sent the things. The Sisters visit the troop ships as usual, and with the same results as at the beginning of the campaign. Sometimes they have to return three times to the house for fresh supplies of Scapulars, medals, etc. They also visit the hospital ships. Walking sticks are the latest addition for distribution to the sick and wounded. The Sisters having seen some poor fellows using pieces of rough wood to assist them in walking, thought they might improve their condition by providing walking sticks. Our first appeal was made to the inmates of our own house, who most generously responded. Not only did they get a good number together, but were most anxious they should look their best, consequently spared no pains in washing and polishing until the sticks looked like new. You would be amused to see the sisters carrying a bundle of sticks on board the hospital ship. It would remind you of the story of the "Fair of Bonnie Dundee." His Grace the Duke of Norfolk called yesterday to see over the house. As the Sisters were about to leave for the docks the door of the van happened to be open, and his Grace caught sight of the bundles of sticks, and wondered what they were going to do with them. The Sisters explained, and he was very much pleased at the idea of giving relief in this way to the poor fellows in their sufferings. Like his brother, Lord Edmund, he has a great heart for the poor and suffering. Our hearts are filled with sorrow to think that he, too, is running the risk of going to the front. May God bring him back safely. I think he was greatly gratified at the reference made to the assistance he gave the Bishop when he came to South Africa. I enclose you a copy of his Grace's reply to the address. Misery and want still prevail over our town.

Father Simon Knapp also writes he is truly grateful for the box of Scapulars, etc., which reached Southampton. He enrolled all the men on board the transport, who had not previously got the brown Scapular. His supply ran short, so that when the Sisters went on board at Capetown they had to return to the house three times for a fresh supply. When he reached De Aar he got orders to proceed to Bloemfontein. At the request of Lord Edmund Talbot, Lord Roberts has cabled home for eight more military chaplains. Lord Edmund has engaged the services of Father Knapp in order to give the Cavalry Divison a chance of making their Easter duties What an immense amount of influence one good Catholic officer has.

A Sister from Kimberly writes—"We still have the Yeomanry here. We try to classify them, as there are many titled gentlemen amongst them. These are as greatful as the humblest born man in her Majesty's services. They little know what fearful hardships they were coming to. One poor fellow about 21 years of age said to me, 'Sister, come here and sit beside me for awhile and say some prayers for me.' After a short time my bell rang, and I told him I must leave for a moment. 'Well, Sister, he said, 'if you knew how my mother would bless you, you would stay with me.' You will understand how these words went to my heart; I hastened back and cheered and consoled him the best way I could. Out here one would almost wish they had not a heart at all, the scenes are so painful. We have Sergeant C——, from Nottingham, here. He told Sister that he had often seen our Sisters walking about in Nottingham, and wondered what good they do for society, but now he knows, and says he will not fail to tell his friends on his return home. A great number of visitors continue to come. Father Goodfriend is still the same, thank God he is no worse. I cannot sufficiently thank all those kind ladies who sent the badges, Agnus Deis, Scapulars, etc. Not a man, Catholic or Protestant, but asked for them. Many of the Catholics engaged to say the prescribed prayers for their Protestant comrades and some of the Protestants themselves promised to say the prayers each day."

A Sister from Port Elizbeth writes—"Lieut Col. Ellis called during the week. He knows our house and Sisters at home. One old lady showed him a crown she had made for the Queen, and another who had her arm in a sling (the result of a fall) said she got wounded fighting against the Boers. He told me to tell you he expects to be called to the front any moment, also that all his military badges and stripes were stolen from his coat. We don't know when they were stolen. He promised to call on his way back if God spared him. In any case he would face death bravely doing his duty. We daily pray for his safety. We kept the Bishop's jubilee His Lordship said the first Mass and Father Bador the second. In the evening the old people and children had a grand entertainment.

A Sister writing from Durban says—"Father de Lacy arrived here from Johannesburg during the week. He is quite well, and gave us a cheering account of our Sisters there. They are all well and in the best of spirits. Although the communication is greatly interrupted, they got some of your letters. We were disappointed he did not bring a letter from here to be posted to you, but he was afraid to venture to carry a letter of any sort, as all leaving the Transvaal, but more especially those who are expelled, are liable to be searched. His expulsion is attributed to his efforts on behalf of the sick prisoners. There was no hospital accommodation provided by the Government. One hundred and sixty-three men, sick of dysentery and enteric fever, lay on the bare floor with only Kaffir rugs, and no medicine were supplied. A committee of British residents subscribed £2,500, which they expend on bedding, medicines, etc, for the sick. The Government allowed these to be provided, but would not allow the clergy to celebrate Mass or attend the sick, except when they were dying. Father de Lacy, on his arrival at Delagoa Bay, received a wire from the Transvaal authorities saying that his expulsion was a mistake, and offering to pay all his expenses if he would return. He, however, preferred to continue his journey to British territory. It is reported here that sixty of the Irish Brigade in Johannesburg retired from the Boer service on account of the expulsion of Father de Lacy. This may account for the telegram recalling him to Johannesburg."

The letters from Johannesburg are brief—"Our old people and children are well. We have not heard from Port Elizabeth or Kimberley since the war began, nor have any of the Sisters received letters from their relatives for the last five months. The people are still very kind to us. Up to the present we have not wanted for anything, nor have we had to trouble the Boer Government for anything whatever. With economy we have sufficient provisions to last us for two months. The town here is well guarded. Peace and quietness reign in the 'Golden City', and only for the feeling of suspense we could hardly realise that fighting is going on at the border. This suspense is terrible. How we all long for the war to be over, there are so many widows and orphans on both sides. May the coming of the Holy Spirit bring us peace.

Filipinos a Bright and Progressive People.

The Rev. Joseph McQuade, of San Francisco, who spent several months in the Phillipine Islands, and who recently attacked the statements attributed to Bishop Potter reflecting on the work of the Catholic Clergymen in the Philippines, lectured Sunday night in the Metropolis Theatre in New York City in aid of St. James's church. He declared that the Filippinos were greatly misunderstood, and that they were intelligent, progressive, and fully capable of self-government.

"Spain, in spite of her political mistakes, and they have been many," he said, "has done glorious work in these islands in the cause of Christianity. That work stands unparalleled in the history of missionary work. The friars against whom there has been so much unjust criticism, need no apology at my hands. The seven or eight millions converted to Christianity among savages of the most savage nature speak for themselves.

"The friars brought the Philippine Islands into the light of day and in this junction I cannot help thinking of the audacity of Bishop Potter, used to the velvet of New York, and who spent four days in the Islands, casting reflections on the friars. I read a letter written by Aguinaldo, who was educated in a native college, to the effect that it was a misstatement of facts that the revolution of the Filipinos was directed against the clergy. In that letter he distinctly states that his followers will uphold the Church in every way. The whole resolution is due to the intense Spanish racial pride which demonstrated itself even against the Filipino priests.

"Many charges have been made that the American soldiers in the Philippines committed outrages in churches. Most of them are false, but it cannot be denied that they indulged in looting."

The Hallowed Dead.

St. Michael's Cemetery was, on Sunday last, the scene of a very interesting event.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians as is their custom at this season of the year marched in a body to the cemetery and with fond remembrance decorated the graves of their departed brethren. From St. Michael's a delegation proceeded to Mount Pleasant paying a graceful tribute to the memory of the late Dr. Burns laying a wreath upon his grave in recognition of the unselfish patriotism of the doctor and his great services in the cause of Home Rule for Ireland.

It's always well to bury the hatchet—and it's always well to remember the spot where it is interred.

The worst thing about a man who wastes his time is his penchant for wasting the time of other people.

SIGNALS OF DANGER.—Have you lost your appetite? Have you a coated tongue? Have you an unpleasant taste in the mouth? Does your head ache and have you dizziness? If so, your stomach is out of order and you need medicine. But you do not like medicine. He that prefers sickness to medicine must suffer, but under the circumstances the wise man would procure a box of Parmelee's Vegetable Pills and speedily get himself in health, and strive to keep so.

Death of William Daly.

Written for the Register

From an early hour until towards noon on Monday the 28th ult, many of the good people of St. Andrews were on the move wending their way from different churches towards the Parish church, (so invitingly resting upon the historic spot) with its tapering spire touring aloft, conspicuously topped with the emblem of Christianity so suggestingly pointing the course of our Divine Redeemer in his sublime flight when gloriously ascending the celestial mansion of His Heavenly Father, there to reign in majestic splendor until the last trumpet shall announce that interminable time shall be engulphed in the imagmative depth of Eternity. After having stamed the earth with his most precious blood and meekly endured tortures unequalled in their cruel character and by far surpassing those inflicted on any other bearing the human form from the creation until the present hour.

Punishment endured by him purely for the redemption of presumptious erratic and sinful man.

The spot again rendered memorable from its having been selected by the Pioneers for the erection of the primitive church of upper Canada when it stood alone as the only Catholic Church in which the Holy sacrifice of the Mass was offered between the cedars of Lower Canada and the easterly shores of lake Huron and Georgion Bay. When the intervening space afforded the haunt for the savage to roam through the trackless forest is yet undisturbed by the sounds attending the onward march of civilization, when the only noise to disturb the monotony of the scene was the roar of the wild animal and war whoop of his kindered inhabitant the Indian and further more the spot rendered dear to the hearts of the following generations for containing the consecrated grounds in which are marked the tombs of those to whom we are idebted for the many blessings enjoyed by the people of this now properous part of Canada. The resting place of the stalworth sons of the Highlands of Scotlan, who in their day with matchless courage and patent endurance not only reduced the forest into well cultivated fields for the productions of all the requirements essential for comfort and plenty but nobly fought for and maintained the integrity of Britons sway and Britons renown when occasion required their strong arms to stamp out rebellionus inclions within and foreign invasion invaders from without the land selected by them for the engagement of the priceless boon of independence peace and happiness notably among them (still remembered by those to the fore), were Mrs McLean widow of the late lamented Niel McLean who was an officer in the troubles of 12 and 18 and mother of the Honorable archbishop McLean, who as chief Justice of the High Court of Ontario creditably adorned the Bench and who for so many years with becoming dignity administered equal handed justice throughout the land.

The remains also of Donald Æneas McDonald (known as Col. Miles), who for so many years, and until incapacitated by age and bodily infirmity, presided as warden of the Provincial Penitentiary, Kingston, with so much satisfaction to the Government and advantage to the country.

The dust again of the Rev. Æneas McDonald, who conducted the theological department of the Seminary, Montreal, with so much admiration and learning.

The place again where are mouldering the bones of the late lamented Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald, so conspicuous in his day in the political field, and at the bar, where he was so noted and successful as a legal practitioner. As neither time nor space, Mr. Editor, will admit of a perusal longer of this interesting and historic theme, I shall, with your permission, return to the occasion of the assemblage at the church referred to on the morning in question.

It was to pay the last tribute of respect to the remains of the late lamented Master George Leonard Daly, son of William Daly Esq the well-known and respected contractor of Montreal, whose body was conveyed that morning by the Grand Trunk Railroad from that city to Cornwall thence to St. Andrews for burial arriving at about 11, with a large concourse of friends and weeping relatives, including his father, mother, Miss Maggie sister and brothers Dan and Willie an imposing Requiem High Mass was chanted by the Rev. Fathers Corbett and Campbell. The service throughout was imposing and inspiring to a high degree, and rendered the more impressive by the melodious notes of the organ under the delicate and learned touch of Miss Catherine Finn, on that musical instrument.

At the termination of the service in the church the bier was carried to the porch where the lid was removed and the last longing look of those most near and dear to the deceased was taken amid their sobs and tears, and hoped that his soul had reached the happy place awaiting the just.

The mother of the departed is a daughter of the late lamented Donald McIntosh of St. Andrews where she was born with the other members of that, much respected family consisting of 3 brothers Donald John, the present deputy reeve the of Cornwall Township, Angus of Montreal and Duncan of Vancouver British Columbia, and sisters Cathcrine Ann McPhail the mother of the Rev. Father McPhail, Annie wife of the late lamented D. I. McGillies St. Andrew's Ellen wife of Mr. Thomas Lee of Montana and Miss Maggie of Montreal.

Consecration of Archbishop Merry Del Val.

One of the most interesting of recent events, writes the Rome Correspondent of The Pilot, not only in the ecclesiastical, diplomatic and patrician world of Rome, but also in the English-speaking colony, was the episcopal consecration of Mgr. Raffaelle Merry del Val as Titular Archbishop of Nicea. This young prelate, whose singular abilities joined to the deepest piety and learning have distinguished him from the very beginning of his career, is truly beloved in Rome by rich and poor alike; and it is confidently predicted that the new Archbishop is destined for high honors in the Church. Monsignor Merry del Val is the son of the Spanish Ambassador to the Holy See, Senor Raffaelle Merry del Val, a Spanish gentleman in whose veins there also runs Irish blood. Partly English on his mother's side, Monsignor del Val received his earlier education at Ushaw College, England; afterwards coming to Rome to enter the College of Noble Ecclesiastics destined for a diplomatic career of which College, Archbishop del Val is now president. Leo XIII. with characteristic intuition immediately singled out the gifted young ecclesiastic, whose personality and abilities singularly attracted His Holiness. He received the title of Monsignor before his ordination to the priesthood, a somewhat rare occurrence; and though Monsignor Merry del Val's predilections inclined towards the mission, the Holy Father evinced the strongest desire of attaching him to his person at the Vatican. He was made Participating Chamberlain by His Holiness shortly after ordination, and as he was constantly in attendance on the Pope at audiences, became well-known to English-speaking persons visiting the Vatican. His knowledge of English is as perfect as that of Italian, Spanish and French.

Monsignor Merry del Val's first sermon was preached at the Church of San Silvestro, in Capite, where he has heard confessions for years, and most numerous have been the converts to Catholicity made by the zealous prelate during the last eight years in Rome.

The consecration took place on Sunday, the 6th inst., when a large gathering of distinguished guests assembled in the National Spanish Church of Santa Maria, in Monserrato. This interesting old church, fittingly chosen for the consecration of the son of a Spanish Ambassador, has always been connected with Spanish memories, and every year, on his birthday, a Mass is sung here for the preservation of the young King of Spain, in the presence of the Spanish Ambassadors to the Vatican and the Quirinal. In this church, also, the belated remains of Pope Alexander VI. (Borgia) found a final resting place after having been moved from place to place. Both in compliment to the Spanish nation (to which his Eminence was Nuncio, and which possesses a large share of his sympathies), and to the Spanish Ambassador, Cardinal Rampolla del Tindaro, Cardinal Secretary of State, consecrated the new Archbishop, assisted by Most Rev. Archbishop Pifferi, Major Sacristan of the Apostolic Palace, and Most Rev. Edmund Stonor, Archbishop of Trebizonde. The father and mother of the Archbishop of Nicea (the Spanish Ambassador and Ambassadress) assisted at the ceremony in places closer to the altar; also the Spanish Cardinal, Cardinal Vivesy Tuto, and the whole diplomatic corps accredited to the Vatican. Many high dignitaries of the Roman Curia were present; Archbishops, Bishops and prelates, also numerous representatives of the patrician families of the "black" nobility. America was represented by the rector of the American College, Mgr. W. H. O'Connell.

After the ceremony, which was a most impressive sight, a reception was held in the Spanish hospice attached to the church; but instead of a grand banquet to his guests the new Archbishop of Nicea invited 200 poor persons to a dinner in memory of his consecration; also presenting each with an object of clothing. In the evening of the consecration, His Eminence Cardinal Rampolla gave a banquet at his apartments in the Vatican in honor of the newly consecrated Archbishop, which was attended by a number of distinguished ecclesiastical and diplomatic guests.

Pope Leo XIII. received Archbishop Merry del Val in special congratulatory audience on Monday last. His Grace will continue to reside in the Roman Curia, retaining his position as rector of the College of Noble Ecclesiastics.

Novena at St. Michael's Cathedral.

In preparation for the Feast of the Sacred Heart and the solemn act of consecration, a Novena will be held at the Cathedral, beginning on the evening of Corpus Christi, June 14th. This Novena will be under the auspices of the League of the Sacred Heart, men and women, of St. Michael's parish. There will be exercises every morning and evening during the Novena, which will close on Sunday, 24th.

UNEQUALLED—Mr. Thos. Brunt, Tyendinaga, Ont., writes:—"I have to thank you for recommending DR. THOMAS' ECLECTRIC OIL for bleeding piles. I was troubled with them for nearly fifteen years, and tried almost everything I could hear or think of. Some of them would give me temporary relief, but none would affect a cure. I have now been free from the distressing complaint for nearly eighteen months. I hope you will continue to recommend it.