

The Catholic Register.

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

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Register of the Week.

On Wednesday, May 8th, the final debate on Mr. Martor's Prohibition bill was held. The time was taken up mainly by Mr. Meredith's attack on the Government policy and Sir Oliver's defence of the amendment proposed by Hon. Mr. Ross. Mr. Meredith began by assailing what he described as the shuffling attitude of the Government on the question before the House. The Minister of Education had to bear the brunt of the attack. Mr. Meredith said it was he who disposed of the Schultz Bill fifteen years ago in the same manner in which Mr. Martor's Bill was being set aside. He accused the Government of being bound to the liquor interest by chains of gold, quoting from the letter of Mr. Cutlbert after the last election, and from a letter of a citizen of Peterborough to show that the saloon-keepers were forced to contribute to the Reform election fund. He gave his full adhesion to the principle and letter of the bill before the House, maintaining that the country was evidently ripe for such a measure, and the House had undoubtedly power to deal with it. He resented bringing the Dominion Government into the debate. If they had not done their duty to stem the evil of intemperance, it was no reason why the Provincial authorities should neglect theirs. He concluded by giving his assent to the original motion.

Sir Oliver Mowat expressed his gratification at the sudden conversion of his honorable friend to the temperance cause. Why had he not in his zeal for Prohibition called upon the Government to introduce a bill? This bill was, he thought, only another device of the Opposition for political purposes, and was not introduced through love of religion and morality. The last time such a bill was introduced in the House the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Cameron, since Chief Justice, agreed with him that the Province could deal with the liquor question only as a matter of revenue. To pass a prohibitory measure with doubtful sanction would be simply to license everybody, and would be a blow to temperance. As to the charges made by the leader of the Opposition, they had adduced only two unproven accusations out of the thousands of cases in the Province. The majority of license-holders in the Province were Conservatives, and their politics did not stand in the way of their business. He concluded by stating opinions of leading authorities that the Provincial Government could not deal with Prohibition.

Mr. Tait concluded the debate. He produced a declaration signed by 143 liquor-dealers in the city that they

had not been asked to contribute to the Reform campaign funds. There were 822 petitions in favor of a plebiscite. Their wishes should be respected.

Mr. Ross's amendment to the amendment, giving the bill a six month's hoist, and providing for a plebiscite, was finally carried by 54 to 88. On Thursday Mr. Ross introduced a bill providing for the plebiscite. The vote is to be taken the first Monday in January, 1894, at the municipal elections.

A large and important deputation of the German and Austrian press was received lately by the Holy Father. Upon entering the audience hall the Pope exclaimed.—"Ah, here are the soldiers of the pen!"—"Your testimonies," said Leo XIII. in his reply to their address, "correspond admirably to the special benevolence which we have bestowed upon the faithful of Germany, and particularly to those who devote themselves to the noble mission of which you acquit yourselves, and who, writing and publishing newspapers inspired by Catholic spirit, deserve well of religion and of the Church of God. Certainly there is hardly anything greater than the function, whose end is to defend energetically, in the midst of this mass of errors and this depravity of doctrine and moral, the sacred rights of truth, under the condition of not wounding charity.

"We have confidence that you will attain this result by following the paths and rules which are traced out for you by this Apostolic See, this See which is the firm basis of truth and justice, the strong citadel of authority which unbridled licence is to day attacking. This See is at the same time an efficacious element and strong bond of concord and peace. You will thereby easily recognize how we rejoice at hearing you profess and express your sentiments of faith and docility in regard to the Church and this supreme Apostolic See, whose rights, we are certain, will be defended by you with courage and perseverance. And in the magnificent path which you will open to those who follow you, you feel encouraged every day by those who have already reaped the fruits of your efforts, by the sympathy and praise of wise and upright men, by the desire of realizing the hope we hold about you, and above all, by the excellence of the good which your efforts will obtain. Amongst these various kinds of good the most important is the full and perfect peace and concord between Church and State, one tends, conformably to its divine institution, to gain eternal salvation; the other, the well-being of here below; both will obtain the desired result if they walk in union, but both will pass

through terrible crises if they are divided.

"Continue therefore with zeal as you have begun, and receive as a pledge of our paternal love the apostolic benediction which we grant with all our heart to each and every one of you in particular."

The ceremony of opening the World's Fair at Chicago took place on the appointed day, May 1st, with everything but pleasant weather to make it agreeable and create a lasting impression upon all who witnessed it. The President of the United States, surrounded by his Cabinet, by high officials from many of the States, and distinguished representatives from abroad, made the dedicatory speech, then pressed the button—and steam and electricity did the rest. The event was no ordinary one. military in procession, guns saluting, flags streaming in the morning breeze, are displays to which we are not accustomed. It is not, therefore, astonishing that on a civic and state holiday the crowd should swell to something like 175,000. A special stand had been erected, from the platform, upon which were chairs for President Cleveland, the Duke of Veragua and his party, and the higher officers of the Fair. After the preliminary exercises had been gone through, the President of the United States rose, and, surveying the vast audience, addressed them as follows. "I am here to join my fellow citizens in the congratulations which befit this occasion. Surrounded by the stupendous results of American enterprise and activity, and in view of the magnificent evidences of American skill and intelligence, we need not fear that these congratulations will be exaggerated. We stand to-day in the presence of the older nations of the world and point to the great achievements we here exhibit, asking no allowance on the score of youth. The enthusiasm with which we contemplate our work intensifies the warmth of the greeting we extend to those who have come from foreign lands to illustrate with us the growth and progress of human endeavor in the direction of a higher civilization. We, who believe that popular education and the stimulation of the best impulses of our citizens lead the way to a realization of the national destiny which our faith promises, gladly welcome the opportunity here afforded us to see results accomplished by the efforts which have been exerted longer than ours in the field of man's improvement, while in an appreciative return we exhibit the unparalleled advance and wonderful accomplishment of a young nation, and present the triumphs of a vigorous, self-reliant, and independent people. We have built these edifices, but we have also built the magnificent fabric of a popular government, whose grand proportions are seen throughout the world. We have made and here gathered together objects of use and beauty, the products of American skill and invention. We have also made men who rule themselves. It is an exalted mission in which we and our guests from other lands are engaged, as we co-operate in the inauguration of an enterprise devoted to human enlightenment, and in the undertaking we here enter upon we exemplify in the noblest sense the brotherhood

of nations. Let us hold fast to the meaning that underlies this ceremony, and let us not lose the impressiveness of this moment. As by a touch the machinery that gives life to this vast Exposition is now set in motion, so at the same instant let our hopes and aspirations awaken forces which in all time to come, shall influence the welfare, the dignity, and the freedom of mankind."

As the last words fell from his lips the President pressed the button on the table near him. This was no signal for a demonstration, in fact, difficult of imagination and infinitely more, so of description. At one and the same instant the audience burst into a thundering shout, the orchestra pealed forth the strains of the Hallelujah chorus, the wheels of the great Allis engine in Machinery hall commenced to revolve, the electric fountains in the lagoon threw their torrents toward the sky, a flood of water gushed forth from the McMonie's fountain and rolled back again into the basin, the thunder of artillery came from the vessels in the lake, the chimes in Manufacturers' hall and on the German building rang out a merry peal, and overhead the flags at the top of the poles in front of the platform revealed two gilded models of the ships in which Columbus first sailed to American shores. At the same moment also hundreds of flags of all nations and all colours were unfurled and within sight of the platform. It was fully ten minutes before the demonstration subsided. Then the band played "America," and the exercises were at an end. The Columbian Exposition was open to the nations of the world. It was precisely the hour of noon when President Cleveland touched the button and thus declared the opening an accomplished fact.

The formal dedication of the Woman's building took place in the afternoon of the same day, when Mrs. Potter Palmer delivered the following address. "Our unbounded thanks are due to the exalted and influential persons who became in their respective countries patronesses and leaders of the movement inaugurated by us to represent what women are doing. Her Majesty the Queen of England has kindly sent an exhibit of the work of her own hands, with the message that while she usually feels no interest in expositions she gives this special token of sympathy with the work of the Board of Lady Managers because of its efforts for women. Her Majesty the Queen Regent of Spain has kindly promised to gratify our desire by sending some relics of the great Isabella whose name is so closely associated with that of the discoverer of our continent. The Orient has not been behind in its efforts to co-operate with us, although it has succeeded in doing so only on a limited scale and in many cases unofficially. Japan, under the guidance of its liberal and intelligent Empress, has promptly and cordially promoted our plans. Her Majesty the Queen of Siam has sent a special delegate, with directions that she put herself under our leadership and learn what industrial and educational advantages are open to women in other countries, so that Siam may adopt such as will elevate the condition of her women."