

# The Catholic Register.

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

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## Register of the Week.

The Manitoba School case came up again last week before the Supreme Court, when Mr. Ewart argued for the petitioners and Mr. Christopher Robinson contra.

Mr. Ewart contended that the statute having been held to be *intra vires* it came within the limits of appeal. This appeal is given in respect to rights and privileges which arose or accrued subsequent to the union. Another point was that immunity from taxes for sectarian schools has been granted by several statutes since the union. Throughout his various points, which were very ably put, he was brought face to face with the decision of the Privy Council.

Mr. Robinson prefaced his argument by the remark that he did not appear for Manitoba, and only in accordance with the directions of the Court. His principal point was that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council maintained the establishment of a national system of education upon a non-sectarian basis was not so inconsistent with the right to set up and maintain denominational schools that the two cannot co-exist together.

Railway travelling is, to say the least of it, as tragical as it is dangerous. The latest and most terrible accident—for accident we must call it for want of a word that will fix the blame and express the carelessness and the consequence—occurred at Battle Creek, Michigan, early on Friday morning. Two trains, one rushing westward at forty miles an hour with thirteen cars of human freight, meet with a crash. The dread iron monster throws its tremendous weight with a momentum due to its velocity, and it in turn telescopes one car, which is driven back until four of the coaches are heaped together in an indescribable mass. To add to the horror the wreck took fire, and the cracking of the flames was drowned by the heart-rending cries of the agonized victims calling for help. Twenty-six killed and half a hundred maimed and wounded was the sad heading of the evening's papers. What a fate! What anxiety for friends! And all because "some one had blundered." Worse—it was direct disobedience. The Chicago and Grand Trunk engineer and conductor had received orders at Lansing to be on the lookout for the west bound train, which was a special. The engineer of this latter train, instead of remaining on the double track as he had been directed to do, entered upon the single track.

Such accidents are a blot on civilization, and display more the horrors of war amongst barbarians than they show man's inability to protect life in times of peace. It is mockery to

moralize at such a moment, but our railways are terribly to blame. The cars are deficient in egress: like the English carriages they should have in the middle a door on each side. Single tracks have long ago been condemned. And lastly, our system of running trains is most careless and dangerous: the block system is the correct one.

The rule which majorities strive to extend nowadays over minorities is very far reaching, and leaves the individual little freedom of action. An example is given at Ottawa. By an act of the Ontario Legislature municipalities may pass by-laws, on the petition of a majority, compelling the owners of places of business to close at six o'clock every evening except Saturday. A by-law was passed by the Ottawa Council, and went into effect for millinery stores on the 9th instant. Protests are entered against it by a number of those more directly interested. One of these very truly says that having to pay heavy taxes and rent she is not going to let other people say how she is to manage her establishment; and she concludes very pluckily: "I am going to keep my store open even if I have to go to gaol for it."

Besides Marshal McMahon France has lost another great son, Charles Francis Gounod, the composer, whose name and works will live as long as a Catholic Church is left standing. On the evening of the 16th he was stricken with apoplexy at his house in St. Cloud, a suburb of Paris, and died late the following day. He was born at Paris on June 17, 1818. At the age of 26 he entered the Conservatory of Music in his native city and carried off a prize entitling him to a residence in Italy. Here he studied early Church music. On his return to France he devoted himself to lyrical compositions for the stage, but without the success which his genius had promised. His first successful work was the opera of Faust, which was more remarkable because Faust had been set to music many times before. "The Redemption," "Mors et Vita," and some Masses are the principal works which rank Gounod amongst the masters of Christian music.

As with McMahon so with Gounod, religious sentiment largely prevailed and was the dominant note of his life and works. Religion formed the dawn and close of his career; for he entered life by studying theology for two years with the intention of being admitted to the holy priesthood. It was on Sunday that the first intimation of death came. Choristers and organist were at his house for a rehearsal. Like Mozart whom he strove to imitate, and who died listening to his own requiem, Gounod was singing his own requiem when the dread destroyer touched him.

The Holy Father sent the following letter in reply to a request from one of the Italian Bishops: "In truth that was a wonderful event which came to pass but a few months ago in your diocese, at a time when, by reason of a long drought, the crops were threatened with ruin. Your people were to be seen by thousands running, full of faith, to implore from the Mother of Pity the favour of the so-much desired rain. They wished to offer up their prayers at the same altar before which their forefathers never prayed in vain. That gave us great consolation, and we were happy to see that the Blessed Virgin had heard the fervent supplications of the faithful by making to fall abundant rain at an opportune time on that arid country, and thus reviving the hopes which had been well-nigh lost. Our joy has been great at learning that this signal favour has born abundant fruits of grace in the faith and behaviour of the inhabitants, and we pray God to preserve these fruits and to make them increase."

While Italian politicians of every order are vainly striving to stir up feeling against the august head of the Church other nations are spontaneously expressing their love and admiration for him, and their adherence to his word and counsel.

The Belgian Democratic League, in its sessions, resolved to follow out and put into practice the principles laid down by the Holy Father in his Encyclical. Cardinal Vaughan exhorts English workmen to follow out the same line of action.

America sends two most gratifying tributes. "The American Catholic editors, officially assembled, consecrate all the loyalty of their hearts to the Supreme Pontiff, and their unalterable devotion to the person and mission of his apostolic delegate, as well as to the prelates and clergy of the Church."

Another expresses deep satisfaction with the clear manner in which the school question has been defined by His Holiness and his accredited delegate.

Spain has spoken through the Archbishop of Toledo, who has written a masterly letter on the temporal power. He demands its restoration for the splendour and independence of the Papacy, which for centuries was the peaceful arbiter of Europe.

The condition of Italy continues to grow worse from day to day. Germany has been a great cause of the unfortunate country's weakness, by forcing her to keep sea and land forces which her resources will not support. Now she humiliates Italy before the whole world by proposing to establish a German Council which will administer Italy's finances. Brigandage is rife

through the country, where also anarchy and socialism are making rapid strides.

One of the members of the English Church Congress held this fall at Bristol spoke on St. Francis of Assisi: "I cannot forget," he said, "that the 4th of October is the day set apart in a great part of Western Christendom for the commemoration of Francis Assisi, the great Friar preacher. And I would ask you to note that Francis of Assisi gained his great power by being a man of his age. He did not introduce simply primitive methods. He used the methods of his day; he clothed himself in the garment of the day; he spoke in the language of the day; and so he won their hearts; and the preaching Order in the nineteenth century which is to accomplish a similar work, must be distinctly a Preaching order of the nineteenth century."

An Organ of the Church, *The Guardian*, thinks that if they want preaching orders they also want teaching orders. It says: "That we want preachers we do not deny, but we want teachers more. No greater service could now be rendered to the Church than the foundation of an Order similar to the Christian Brothers in France, which should make teaching in Elementary schools the one object of its rule."

The English Church needs something more than either Preaching Order or Teaching Order—it needs authority to either preach or teach.

Another Church Organ, *The Church Times*, explains Catholicity in the Province of Quebec: "It is true that the Roman Catholic body in the Province of Quebec cannot be charged with intrusion, seeing that it possessed Bishops there long before Bishop Mountain was consecrated. But it must not be forgotten that Quebec became English by right of conquest, and the English, therefore, had a right to establish their own Church there, especially since the Roman Catholic Church imposes terms of communion which are un-Catholic and un-Scriptural, and anathematizes all who do not accept them, while the Anglican communion does not. The schism, therefore, is created by the former and not by the latter." Could perverse absurdity go to greater length? The Catholics of Quebec are not guilty of intrusion, but guilty of schism for staying. Conquest creates schism—a new theological proposition—*anathema sit*.

The Silver Question drags its slow length along in the United States Senate, its latest phase being a compromise, which is a surrender to the silver men. It is proposed: (1) That the purchasing clauses of the Sherman Act shall be repealed, to take effect, Jan. 1st, 1895. (2) That the seignorage in the Treasury, amounting to about \$55,000,000, shall be coined, and the product treated as cash in the Treasury. (3) That the provisions shall be enacted which, in an indirect manner, shall authorize, the Secretary of the Treasury to issue 8½ per cent bonds, not to be used as the basis for national bank circulation. This last condition was removed, as likely to affect the credit of the United States.