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THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1894.

Calendar for the Week.

April 12—S. Julius I., Pope and Confessor.
13—S. Hermenegild, Martyr.
14—S. Justin, Martyr.
15—Third Sunday after Easter, Patronage of St. Joseph.
16—S. Benedict Joseph Labre, Confessor.
17—S. Anicetus, Pope and Martyr.
18—S. John Damascene, Confessor and Doctor.

The Forty Hours' Devotion opens at St. Paul's on Sunday next.

Church Disendowment.

No doubt whatever exists just now as to the fate of the Established Church in Wales, its existence as a propped up pet institution of Protestant Toryism is doomed. We are informed by the very latest despatches that a Bill is now before the House of Commons for the suppression of all endowed privileges and Government aid to the Church in Wales as by law established. There is absolute certainty as to the triumphant passage of the Bill. The Liberals of themselves could not hope for victory on so delicate a question as the pulling down, even, of an outside pillar of the petted establishment; but by closing their ranks, and leaning on a solid vote of 78 Irish members, they have Tory Ascendancy at their feet.

The people of Wales, delivered from so hateful a burden as the obnoxious tithe system of a church in which they had no faith, must feel charged with a debt of everlasting gratitude to the Irish people. For centuries, with a large majority of Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians, they have submitted to the anomaly and injustice of contributing, by direct taxation, to the support of the four Episcopal Sees, of St. David's, Bangor, Llandaff and St. Asaph's. The Bishops of each Diocese received their thousands of pounds sterling, with little or nothing to do excepting to act as figure-heads for the English Church, and sit occasionally in the House of Lords, where their chief occupation was to help the lay lords in voting down every liberal measure called for by the representatives of the people.

One clause of the Bill is destined to rouse the fury and determined opposition of the Lords. It sets forth that the present actual incumbents, or ministers and Bishops now in charge, shall retain their emoluments while life lasts, but that at the termination of the incumbency by death the whole property of the Church, and all the funds from which ministerial or episcopal salaries were derived, shall, without exception, be appropriated for national purposes.

The Orangemen raised a mighty howl of defiance at the time the Church in Ireland was disestablished

by Gladstonian legislation, and threatened to line the ditches with rifles from Derry to Belfast, and, as the Rev. Mr. Lylo said in a famous out-door speech, "Kick the Queen's Crown into the Boyne." But nothing came of all the threats, except the universal conviction of the folly and impotency of Orangeism. The members of that body will scarcely expose themselves to ridicule in protesting against the Liberal tide. Their Russells, Johnstons and Saundersons will no doubt cause scenes of laughter in the Commons by their antics; but their fanatical as well as irrational conduct will disgust all fair-minded men. One natural consequence must ensue from their opposition to emancipation of the Welsh—the hearty detestation of their methods, and the general desire to free the rest of Ireland from their intolerance and tyranny by a thorough and unstinted measure of Home Rule.

Professor Fraser.

It is not a very easy task to treat historical subjects without bias. It ought however to be an easy task for any one with only mediocre claims to scholarship and with ordinary politeness to lecture to a mixed audience without hurting the feelings of his hearers. But easy as this task is, it was not performed by Professor Fraser of Toronto University in his lecture last Saturday afternoon upon Michael Angelo. The few Catholics who attended must have felt ill at ease when this would-be scholar and should-be gentleman interspersed his narrative with distorted and irrelevant stories. Mr. Fraser is welcome to take whatever view he likes of the Popes and the Catholic Church; but it is gratuitous on his part to use the lecture rooms of our Provincial University for the purpose of wounding the Catholic portion of his audience.

We understand that this lecture is the last of the season. So it ought to be. And the governing body of Toronto University ought to see that the like should never be repeated. If Prof. Fraser teaches as he lectures, it is easy to understand how the fires of bigotry are kept kindled where they should be stifled, and how narrow-minded prejudice rules in halls where large-hearted learning ought to reign.

Charity and Conscience.

Our contemporary the *Evening News* expresses surprise that the Roman Catholics "are indisposed to share in the general advantages which the proposed shelter for homeless children will offer," and for which the Rev. J. E. Starr and Mr. J. K. Macdonald obtained a grant from the Executive. The application of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is carrying out the separate system which begins in the schools and is carried through the various homes, hospitals and refuges. The *News* says, "We have even contributed from the general fund towards the establishment of hospitals for the use of the minority." This is regarded as a folly. "There should be one system of State-aided schools, one system of hospitals under State or municipal control, and the same plan should be adhered to in providing

children's shelters and other charities."

That sort of talk will do if we are guided by expediency and not principle. It will do if we are willing that religion should have nothing to do with the care and formation of the young. As long as the people maintain that the great end of life is to look after the body, to advance materially—as long as worship consists in mere humanitarianism then the plan advocated by the *News* will do. But the Catholic Church can listen to no such sophistry and be guided by no such marsh light. That which alone will give charity an endurance stronger than death is that it comes from on high and leads us thither again. The soul is to be saved. Truth is to be preserved—faith to be guarded and principle instilled. Is the State prepared to undertake this task? Why, we cannot entrust a single school to party politicians without safeguarding it as far as possible. How could they undertake to look after our poor little ones, and instruct them in the way of salvation? Shall we hand them over to such a body as the municipality of Toronto—and expect that their conscience will be formed and their religion respected? It is out of all question. It simply means—give up your Church. The whole movement is an awkwardly devised scheme of proselytism against an unoffending minority. Our poor, our sick, our children attacked—nothing much is left except for them to attack our homes.

But to tell us with pharisaical boasting that "we have contributed from the general funds towards the establishment of hospitals for the use of the minority," is too much. What Catholic hospital in this country was ever established by money from the general fund? We know of none. And we should like the *News* to name any. As far as we know they have all been built from the corner stone to the roof by the contributions of the faithful and the self-denial of the religious in charge. For services rendered towards the sick they have received remuneration. To help them in maintenance and efficiency they have received grants from the general fund. Have Catholics no share in that general fund? Certainly they have. By what principle does the *News* talk as if the majority were doing everything? The liberty of conscience is dear to every man, and we are bound that a selfish majority will not rob our poor and helpless of this heritage without being summoned to the bar of honest public opinion and boasted British fair play.

St. Vincent de Paul Society.

We call the attention of our readers to the report of the meeting of this estimable Society, which took place on Sunday in St. John's Chapel under the presidency of his Grace the Archbishop. During the past winter a severe strain has been put upon the charitable resources of the benevolent—times have been hard, work has been scarce and many a one has felt want who never knew it before. The weight of the burthen, so far as our people are concerned, fell upon the

Society of St. Vincent de Paul. It is gratifying to learn from the active members and from the figures of the Report that a large amount of good has been done by the many conferences and the auxiliary Societies of Ladies' Aid which are now organized.

One point—a new subject—deserves special mention—the organization of a children's Aid Society. As was pointed out by the President recent legislation has provided for the protection and care of neglected children, so that upon the commission of judicial authorities a child is placed under the control of a Society organized for the purpose, and which shall have parental rights over such children. The Protestants of the City have already moved in the matter. And although they showed no liberal spirit by appearing before the City Council and asking a grant, without ever inviting their Catholic fellow-citizens to join them so that the Catholics might share in the advantage, still we cannot help admiring the zeal which they display. It behoves our people to be up and doing. The gravest interests of abandoned little ones are at stake. We were therefore very glad to see that a deputation of Catholics consisting of Rev. Father Brennan, O.S.B., J. J. Murphy, Esq., H. T. Kelly, Esq. and a few others waited on the Executive of the City Council to make their demands upon the subject. At the meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society a resolution was unanimously adopted instructing the Particular Council to take the necessary steps for exercising the powers conferred by the Statute.

His Grace encouraged the members in their new undertaking, and spoke of his deep anxiety and his own undertakings in the cause of these poor children—whose eternal welfare on account of dangerous surroundings, stands in continual peril. In a city like Toronto young Catholic children under the most favorable circumstances run great risk despite the vigilance and example of parents. What is to be said of those who either have lost their parents or whose parents have no care for them? They cannot be thrown aside to perish. Nor will they, as long as the St. Vincent de Paul Society is as active and charitable as it is in this city. If another burthen is put upon it, we have every reason to hope that the generous Catholics in our midst will rally to their help and make this new organization a success.

Personal.

Mr. Patrick Donahoe, the founder and chief proprietor of the *Boston Pilot*, celebrated his eightieth birthday, on the 17th of March. Mr. Donahoe's name has been familiar to all the Irish Catholics of America for the past fifty years. Although rather late the *Catholic Register* joins its good wishes to the many congratulations which have been extended him on the celebration of the anniversary of his four score years.

A grand celebration was held at the St. James' Cathedral, at Montreal, a week last Sunday, in honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Archbishop Fabre's consecration as Bishop of Montreal.