

The Catholic Record.

Published Weekly at 484 and 486 Richmond Street, London, Ontario.

Price of subscription—\$2.00 per annum.

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Approved and recommended by the Archbishop of Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa, and St. Boniface, and the Bishops of London, Hamilton and Peterboro, and the clergy throughout the Dominion.

Correspondence intended for publication, as well as that having reference to business, should be directed to the proprietor, and must reach London not later than Tuesday morning.

Advertisements must be paid in full before the paper can be stopped.

London, Saturday, Feb. 11, 1893.

LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR 1893.

(OFFICIAL.)

The following are the Lenten regulations for the diocese of London.

1st. All days of Lent, Sundays excepted, are fast days.

2nd. By a special indulgent from the Holy See, A. D. 1884, meat is allowed on Sundays at every meal, and at one meal on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, except the Saturday of Ember week and Holy Saturday.

3rd. The use of flesh and fish at the same time is not allowed in Lent.

The following persons are exempted from abstinence, viz: Children under seven years; and from fasting, persons under twenty one; and from either or both, those who, on account of ill health, advanced age, hard labor, or some other legitimate cause, cannot observe the law.

In case of doubt the pastor should be consulted.

Lard may be used in preparing fasting food during the season of Lent, except on Good Friday, as also on all days of abstinence throughout the year by those who cannot easily procure butter.

Pastors are required to hold in their respective churches, at least twice in the week during Lent, devotions and instructions suited to the holy season, and they should earnestly exhort their people to attend these public devotions.

They are hereby authorized to give on these occasions Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Besides the public devotions, family prayers, especially the holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin, should be recited in every Catholic household of the diocese.

M. J. TIERNAS, Sec.

THE HOME RULE BILL.

The Home Rule Bill as it will be laid before the House of Commons in a few days has not as yet been published in full for the use of the general public, but its outlines and principal features have been made known in a despatch from London.

These features agree in the main with an outline of the Bill which was given a few weeks ago in the London Speaker. The Speaker is recognized as the organ of Mr. Gladstone, and its utterances bear a semi-official character, and are therefore considered as of great importance, as they make known the intentions of the Government in regard to this measure so important to Ireland, and not only to Irishmen, but to lovers of liberty everywhere.

The Speaker in its comments named five points which were peculiarly difficult of settlement in a manner satisfactory to all, yet as Mr. Healy declared on behalf of the most numerous section of the Nationalists that the Bill as prepared is a much better one than that of 1886, on which Mr. Gladstone's Government was defeated, it may fairly be assumed that Ireland will be satisfied with it; and, on the other hand, Mr. Asquith, the Home Secretary, announced at a meeting of the Liberal Federation Congress that the programme of the session has been definitely and finally arranged, there can scarcely be a doubt that the Liberal party will also support it.

It is difficult to say what attitude the House of Lords will assume on the question. If the mutterings which have been heard are an indication of the temper of the Lords, they will oppose it; but in view of the fact that Mr. Gladstone has frequently and positively stated that he will find an effectual remedy for the opposition of the Lords, the probabilities are that they will yield rather than expose themselves to being forced to come down from the lofty position they have been threatening to take.

Mr. Gladstone is in no humor to be browbeaten by them, and they know very well that he has it in his power to use effectual means which they will not relish to bring them to obey the popular will.

It is most likely, therefore, that they will accept the verdict which has been rendered at the polls. Possibly if they do not yield there may be yet another general election, but it is almost a certainty that in such an event Mr. Gladstone's majority will be increased, and the popular verdict will be seen to be irresistible.

The Unionists of Ulster are making much noise to induce the Lords to hold

out, but they cannot resist the inevitable, and even though obstacles should be temporarily thrown in the way, they must be removed within a very short time, and Ireland will obtain the measure which she has insisted on so firmly, though waiting patiently for its attainment by constitutional means.

The five points indicated by the Speaker as difficult of settlement are: 1, the Land Question; 2, the presence of Irish members at Westminster; 3, the veto; 4, the Police Force and the Judiciary; 5, the Financial arrangement.

The Land Question is difficult from the fact that some Liberals fear that an Irish Parliament may not be sufficiently considerate towards the landlords. The Irish members are quite willing to deal with the matter, and they would certainly take care to observe justice in so doing; but they are willing to let it be dealt with by the Imperial Parliament, provided, of course, that the latter body really deal with it.

The opposing views have been reconciled by reserving the question to the Imperial Parliament for five years, after which the Irish Parliament will have power to settle the matter if it be not already settled. This solution is the one which Mr. Parnell suggested.

The question of Irish members in the Imperial House of Commons has been settled by providing for one hundred and three Irish members, but it is probable that the Speaker's forecast is correct, that the number of Irish representatives will be reduced after settlement of the Land Question. Irish representation is also provided for in the House of Lords.

The veto power of the Queen is not mentioned in the telegraphic summary, but probably the number of subjects reserved to the Imperial Parliament is considered a sufficient guarantee on this point, as the veto power would mean the right of the Imperial Government to veto all Irish Bills. Treaties, relations with foreign States, Customs, and excise matters are thus reserved, and also the establishment of any religion, and legislation on denominational schools and charities. The last three matters are undoubtedly intended to afford to Ulster all the guarantees it requires.

The total annual amount which Ireland will give for Imperial purposes will be £2,881,000, which is a great reduction as compared with the provisions of the Bill of 1886.

There will be two Houses of Irish Parliament; and in case they cannot agree measures will be decided by a popular referendum. Financial matters, however, are not to be dealt with except on recommendation of the Lord Lieutenant as representing the Queen.

It is arranged that the police and judiciary are to remain for five years under control of the Imperial Parliament, after which the Irish Parliament shall assume control.

These measures will certainly afford great relief to Ireland. It remains to be seen whether they will meet the general expectation of the public that they will give all the relief needed.

A DISAPPOINTED POLITICIAN.

It has been well known for the last few years that Mr. D'Alton McCarthy has been a recalcitrant member of the Conservative party, but during the last two or three weeks the tension has been so great that the bonds by which he has been attached to it have been at last completely severed, and he now declares himself to be "an independent member" of the House of Commons.

We already made in our columns a statement of the chief causes which brought about the present condition of affairs. It will be remembered that the Toronto Mail tried to put a religious feature on the quarrel, by making it appear that Mr. McCarthy was the victim of a "Popish" plot.

There is a class of readers who receive with avidity any tales on which such a construction can be placed, but the Mail's story has been shown to be a mere fabrication, and it has been now ascertained from Mr. McCarthy's own admission that his quarrel is simply the effect of a personal pique on his part, the "Popish" feature having been brought in purely for sensational purposes.

Since the quarrel became publicly known, Mr. McCarthy asked the opportunity to explain his position to his constituents, and he has accordingly explained to them his reasons for the change in his political course, but it can scarcely be said that he succeeded in making so good an impression on the public as might have been expected from a politician towards whom so many eyes have been directed as the

prospective leader of a new party to be formed on anti-Catholic lines, and with a new trade policy.

From some of his utterances it might have been supposed that he was about to become an earnest Reformer, for in one of his recent speeches he actually declared that he would henceforth be an ardent supporter of Sir Oliver Mowat in consequence of the decided stand taken by Sir Oliver against allowing a pronounced annexationist like Mr. Elgin Myers to retain his official position while advocating the political union of Canada with the United States.

It now appears that the Reformers did not receive Mr. McCarthy's advances with enthusiasm, so he finds himself still left out in the cold, and as a consequence he has now openly declared himself to be "an independent."

We suppose this means that he is to be the leader of a new party if he can only find a following in the country, which is not likely to be the case, unless the new Know-Nothings, who call themselves the Protestant Protective Association, adopt his leadership.

We have nothing to say against Mr. McCarthy's right to differ from his party on a political question, and if he gives public expression to his views he acts within his rights as a citizen of a free country.

But from his avowal at Stayner, it is not on public grounds at all that he has made his proclamation of independence. The issue at stake is simply a personal one. This announcement he made as follows:

"It is not so much a matter of policy, gentlemen, which has driven me out of the ranks. It is, gentlemen, as a man of honor with regard to all those circumstances that I cannot do otherwise than pack up. As I am not worthy of being consulted, that is one of the taunts against me: 'We have formed an Administration without consulting D'Alton McCarthy.' That is perfectly true that for the first time since I have been in public life a Government has been formed by the leaders of my party and I am unworthy of being consulted. If I am not worthy of being allowed into their confidence and into their councils I can only speak out to you in open meeting to say to you what I believe to be right."

The public generally are not so deeply concerned with Mr. McCarthy's private estimate of himself as to care whether he was consulted or not in the formation of a new Ministry, nor does the welfare of the country depend so entirely on Mr. McCarthy's being consulted that there must necessarily be a change in the Government and in the whole administration of public affairs whenever he imagines that he has been not deferentially treated. We do not pretend to know how the electorate of North Simcoe will receive Mr. McCarthy's astounding revelation that he was treated so cavalierly, but we are pretty well convinced that the country, and even the Province of Ontario, will not place upon Mr. McCarthy the exaggerated estimate with which he regards himself. He is a disappointed politician, and he imagines, apparently, that the whole Dominion must make his imaginary wrongs the political issue of the next generation.

Mr. McCarthy has been for several years one of the least reliable members of the Conservative party, and even at the last election it is admitted that he was the Conservative candidate only on the understanding that he was to be free to oppose the party policy on certain questions on which he disagreed with it. He was a recalcitrant Conservative, and we certainly cannot see that in such a capacity he had strong claims to be consulted by the party leaders in the formation of a Government. If he was actually consulted, as he states, by Sir John Abbot, a consideration was shown towards him which he scarcely deserved at all, and which he certainly deserved less than some other members of the party who perhaps were not consulted any more than himself.

On the 30th ultimo the Conservative Club of Mr. McCarthy's constituency, at their annual meeting, passed resolutions endorsing Sir John Thompson's Cabinet and condemning Mr. McCarthy's course. It is thus made clear that, as a body, at all events, they will not follow whosoever their erratic member's arrogance and disappointed ambition may lead.

MR. MICHAEL DAVITT, who was unseated for Meath, is announced as the Nationalist candidate for North-east Cork, one of the seats for which Mr. William O'Brien was elected in July. His return is certain, as there was no opposition to the Nationalist candidates for that constituency during the elections of 1885, 1886, 1887 and 1892. Mr. Davitt was not made ineligible for re-election by the judgment of the Court which unseated him.

WHY IS IT SO?

There have been of late numerous examples of the avidity with which many, if not the majority, of Protestant audiences greet the worst possible specimens of humanity if they only take the shape of anti-Popery lecturers.

The history of Maria Monk is an evidence that a generation or two ago this avidity was even more marked if possible than at the present day, especially if the stories told represented the most virtuous of Catholics in a hideous light. Edith O'Gorman was another evidence of this, and so was the notorious convict Widdows, who at a much more recent date was received in this city with open arms by the pastor and congregation of Grace Methodist Church, and was even permitted to become practically the pastor of that church and to travesty the most sacred rites of Christianity in his pretended ministrations of the Gospel therein.

But in all these cases it was proved that the individuals who pandered to the passion of hatred for Catholics were notoriously bad characters, and that their tales were pure fabrications without even a foundation in truth.

It might be expected that these lessons would not be lost upon the average mind, and that Protestants generally would learn to suspect that the gross falsehoods which we know are still promulgated in many Protestant pulpits against Catholics are likewise falsehoods, the object of which is to ensure to these preachers of a false gospel a livelihood, because it is only by means of the grossest slanders and libels used abundantly that the beauty of Catholic truth can be concealed from thinking Protestants at the present day. Perhaps without this pabulum the conventicles would be abandoned.

The anxiety to listen to these falsehoods has not passed away with the spread of education, and lying lecturers still find large audiences to encourage them.

It is only a short time since the notorious Mrs. Diss Debar hurried thousands of people with her glib revelations delivered through the United States, and she would probably be still in the field only for the collapse of her effort a little more than a year ago to dupe the people of Chicago, Cleveland and elsewhere with her yarn about an attempt of the Chicago Jesuits to rob her of her jewelry and by the use of drugs even of her senses and perhaps her life. She would most likely be lecturing now in crowded halls were it not for the discovery of her identity with the Spiritualistic medium who defrauded the New York lawyer, Mr. Arthur Marsh, of his property. This discovery caused her to disappear suddenly; but where there is a demand there will be a supply, and several Canadian towns have been and are now being regaled by a Mrs. Sheppard, who is said to have instituted in Canada the new association which has undertaken to regenerate the country by an attempt to drive Catholics from political life and all official positions.

This new Protestant Protective Association is careful to surround itself with darkness, as it will not reveal even the names of members, but we can easily believe that it has Mrs. Sheppard for its originator, for it is conducted on a plan just like one of the United States societies which has similar objects and oaths with itself, and of this latter Mrs. Sheppard is known to be the originator and first chief or president.

Here we may remark that the Chicago branch of the United States society found it necessary to vindicate its good name by repudiating Mrs. Sheppard on account of discoveries which showed up their Supreme President as a woman quite on a par with her co-laborers in the anti-Popery lecture field. The Canadian society still upholds her, and patronizes her lectures. "Birds of a feather flock together."

There are other lecturers in the field, but all are of the same wood. One Slattery, a deposed or suspended priest, has been parading in the West with a partner who claims to be an ex-nun, capable of telling tales equally harrowing with those of Maria Monk's "Awful Disclosures."

Among her stories is one to the effect that she enriched the Nunnery of Poor Clares, Cavan, Ireland, to which she belonged, with a dowery of \$80,000. Enquiry has shown that she never belonged to that institution, whether as a religious, a novice, or a postulant. That is to say, she was never even a candidate to become a nun! The Lady Abbess knew nothing of her whatsoever.

One John Denis Daly has also been

figuring on the Pacific Coast as an expert. In San Francisco and Oakland he was delivering a course of lectures of the usual style, under the auspices of the Methodists and Baptists, which two sects, by the way, are those which are usually the most easily imposed upon by such characters.

Daly received liberal pay for his lectures, but he disappeared suddenly a couple of weeks ago, and no one could tell what had occurred to him. The story was then circulated that he had been spirited away and murdered by Catholics, of course!

The following was the story related to a reporter by a Mr. Davie, one of the Baptist fraternity who took a great interest in this "brand snatched from the burning":

Mr. Davie: "I believe they have done him up."

Reporter: "Whom do you refer to?"

Mr. Davie: "Why the Catholics of course. Who else would attempt it? It was the Rev. Mr. Daly's intention to locate here, and on the day he was in my office he was very much elated over his lecture of the previous night. When in San Francisco to-day I called at the police headquarters and was shown the billy found on the Tivoli steps the other night. The Italians are probably Catholics, as most Italians are, and especially low ones. Of course I don't say that these men had anything to do with Rev. Daly's disappearance, but then everything looks strange, and, in fact, it is a mysterious case all around, and I intend to investigate it thoroughly."

Mr. Daly was at time of this conversation in the prison trying to wear off the effects of a long spree. He had been arrested by a policeman for being drunk and disorderly on the streets, and had been locked up. Investigation brought out the facts, and Mr. John Denis Daly's lecture engagement was cancelled.

Would it not be wise for Methodists and Baptists to be more guarded whom they use and dub as clergymen to preach the gospel of hate to their congregations? Perhaps, however, no respectable man or woman can be found who will enter the anti-Popery lecture field, and they must content themselves with any one they can pick up.

THE RELIGIOUS QUESTION IN GERMANY.

It is stated in a despatch from Berlin that "the Emperor William of Germany will entertain Dr. Kopp, of Breslau, and Dr. Kremertz, of Cologne, the newly-created German Cardinals, at a grand State dinner upon their return from Rome. Among the guests will be the members of the Council of State. It is said that Count von Ballestein and Dr. Lieber, the leader of the Clericals, will be present."

The attitude of the Emperor towards the Church, which is constantly becoming more and more friendly, ought to be taken as the last remnant of the penal laws of Prince Bismarck's regime will soon be abolished by a repeal of the laws by which the Jesuits have been banished from the Empire; but at all events there has been a great change since Bismarck boasted that the Government would never "go to Canossa."

To the ever-increasing influence of the Church in Germany, and especially to the strength of the Catholic party in the Reichstag, this change must be attributed, and these same causes must before long bring about the repeal of the obnoxious anti-Jesuit laws.

The same despatch continues:

"The Emperor is expected to talk with Dr. Kopp and Dr. Kremertz concerning the Vatican's attitude towards the Army Bill, and to endeavor to influence the two prelates so that they will induce the Roman Catholic deputies to vote with the Government coalition in the Reichstag."

We can readily understand that the Emperor should speak with these eminent Princes of the Church upon a subject so near to his heart as his pet Army Bill, and as they are loyal subjects they will if so consulted give him the best advice they are able in accordance with what they think will be of most advantage to the country. But it must be evident to all who understand the Pope's office and duties that this portion of the despatch is simply an expression of the absurd notion of some Protestants that the Pope has an attitude for every political measure in all countries.

The Army Bill is a German political measure, and the Pope will certainly do nothing in regard to it which will interfere with the constitutional liberty of Catholics to deal with it as patriotism will suggest. It is from the standpoint of patriotism that the Catholics of the Reichstag will decide upon the course they will take, though possibly the Pope, if requested to give them any advice, may recommend them to do what they think will conduce most to the

interests of the Empire, or even to cooperate with the Government as far as prudence and conscience will dictate.

It has been said in former despatches that the Catholic party expect the repeal of the anti-Jesuit laws as the price of their support of the Army Bill, and that the Government has promised this measure on condition that their support be given to it.

Nothing could be said more improbable than such a statement. They will undoubtedly view the Bill from a motive of patriotism; yet even in this respect it is possible that they may use their power and influence for the purpose of securing wise legislation on other subjects, as, for example, the Jesuit laws. The like takes place in all constitutionally governed countries, such as England and the United States and in our own Dominion, without any suspicion against the loyalty or patriotism of those who thus exercise their powers.

If there is a lack of patriotism in any of the German parties it must be sought rather among those who began a relentless persecution against one-third of the people of Germany for conscience' sake, against a population which shed their blood on many a crimsoned field for the defence of the Empire, equally with their Lutheran and Calvinistic and Luthero Calvinistic fellow subjects.

Gratitude itself should have taught Bismarck to follow another course than to persecute such subjects in order to establish a hollow religious uniformity which he had at last to recognize as beyond his power of attainment.

MARRIAGE LAWS.

Representative Wilson of the Illinois Legislature is endeavoring to have a bill passed to secure what he calls marriage reform in that State. His proposal is that licenses shall be granted only to such persons as can read and write, who are mentally sound and in good health, and if males, engaged in an honorable employment from which they derive sufficient income for the support of their wives. To prove good health, physically and mentally, a certificate would have to be produced from a regular physician. While it must be admitted that it is desirable that a newly married couple should be healthy and that there should be sufficient means of support for them, it would seem that Mr. Wilson seeks to hamper the celebration of marriage with too many conditions difficult to be applied, and which, if put into operation, will rather throw obstacles into the way of the many persons who are every way suited to enter the state of matrimony than prevent those few who are not fit for it from so doing.

Such restrictive legislation as Mr. Wilson proposes has never been found to work well. It is notorious that medical certificates to suit the wishes of the persons who are to hold them are readily procurable for any purpose for which they may be desired, on payment of a small fee, so that for the few comparatively whom the bill aims at keeping out of the married state on account of some unfitness, the necessary certificate will be easily obtained; while hundreds who are thoroughly fit for the important duties of marriage will have annoying obstacles in the form of unnecessary difficulties thrown up against them, and many will be subject to petty annoyances which arrogant officials and busybodies will raise against them. This feature of the bill will therefore be an evil rather than a good.

There are other obnoxious features in the bill, as the clause which prevents the marriage of those who cannot read and write. We have often known such marriages to prove most happy; and though one or both parents may have been unable to read or write, the children, having all the modern opportunities for education, have been most intelligent, and have been in every respect among the best and most useful members of the sphere in which they have lived.

It seems to us, therefore, that Mr. Wilson's bill does not strike at the root of the evil of United States marriage laws. The worst evil is to be found in the facilities afforded for divorce, and not in those which make marriage easy. No human regulations or laws will ever be made which will suit every possible case in the best possible way, and there will be occasions when it would be advisable there should be restrictions, but the cases which do thus occur under the existing condition of things will not be removed by Mr. Wilson's proposals. The Divorce Courts of Illinois and other States,

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