

# The Catholic Register.

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

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## Current Topics.

### The Boer

The past week has been marked by the volict of Kimberley by General French, with a cavalry brigade 10,000 strong backed by another force of 10,000 infantry. Entering the Orange Free State from the west by a series of rapid movements and two sharp engagements, General French succeeded in forcing General Cronje with his army of 7,000 men to leave a hasty and what may prove a disastrous retreat towards Bloemfontein the capital of the Orange Free State. A telegram from the Boer commandant, was found complaining that the Boers were completely caught. General Cronje lost some of his heavy guns and many wagons laden with stores, rifles and ammunition. The Roberts and Kitchener campaign seems to have been something entirely unexpected by the Boers and will have an immediate and far-reaching effect on the general conduct of the war. Should Gen. Cronje not succeed in reaching Bloemfontein without fighting a decisive engagement, his forces will be at the mercy of a much superior British army, unless strengthened by troops from Natal which would materially weaken the hitherto impregnable defence opposed so far to Buller's advance on Ladysmith. The skill with which the Boer general so far accomplished his retreat from a most difficult position proves the mobility of the Boer forces. This sudden invasion of the Free State has forced the Boers to abandon Magerfontein and other strong positions and may result in completely reducing the Free States to submission. The British troops are said to have been welcomed by the burghers of Jacobabad and Lord Roberts has issued a proclamation to the Free States stating the cause of the coming of the British their desire to terminate the war and the responsibility that will rest on the Boers if they continue the war. Another week will probably see the Free State in the hands of the British. The position of the Boers, and the British in Natal ceased around Ladysmith is practically unchanged and much will depend on the direction and success of the remainder of the Roberts & Kitchener operations.

It is of interest to Canadianadians to hear that the Contingents' ninth division which includes the first Canadian Contingent, took part in the advance on Jacobabad. In the operations five Canadianians fell on the march and are either in the hospital or captured. The British steamer Laurentia with the first artillery section of the second Canadian Contingent has arrived at Cape Town. These troops were welcomed at Cape Town by the Military Secretary to Sir Alfred Milner, the Governor of Cape Colony and British Commissioner in South Africa. The Kingston Artillery and the Toronto Quota of A Squadron have arrived at Halifax and in a few days will sail for the Cape on the steamer Milwaukee. In the meantime a fierce battle concerning the sending of the contingents has been going on in the House of Commons at Ottawa in face of the fore-gone conclusion that the rights of the Canadian soldiers in South Africa and the respectability of the Dominion will be only safe-guarded.

After the all absorbing The Mivart topic of the war the subject that has claimed the attention of the entire Catholic press and, to a great extent of the non-Catholic press, is the controversial issue of Dr. St. George Mivart, and the action of Cardinal Vaughan. When a good man falls from grace it should be more a matter of sorrow and regret than recrimination and abuse, and on the whole this spirit has been evident in the Catholic press when dealing with the case. On the other hand anti-Catholic organs have endeavored as usual to misinterpret the assertion of the Cardinal Archbishop's authority and to vilify the Catholic Church because it will not permit to its members that bulwark of Protestantism the right of private judgment; in matters of faith. Surely the uncompromising fidelity of the Catholic Church to its own dogmas should be sufficiently well understood in their days as not to cause any very great surprise amongst its own members or amongst other religious denominations. The test of Dr. Mivart's Catholicity lay not so much in the condemned articles he wrote as in his refusing to sign the profession of faith submitted to him by Cardinal Vaughan. It is not too late for Dr. Mivart to see the error of his ways, but intellectual pride is probably the one sin hardest for the individual to fully realize and repent of. "By that sin fell the angels."

## United States Reminiscences.

Chicago, Feb. 18th.—Here are a few gossiping bits touching American affairs, and touching some of our Old Timers' Reminiscences, facts and fancies. I fear, however, that my ideas may not altogether coincide with those of some of my readers, having resided so long "across the line," as we used to call it when we were in Canada, and mingling industriously in Canadian affairs. Yet, we have so many feelings in common, and my human sympathies being old and steadfast, I may be able to touch a responsive chord in the hearts of some of the readers of the Register.

In the "Register," I recognize the successor of a long line of Catholic newspapers of which I have been a reader, and with which my feelings were somewhat bound up. A struggling class this line has been. Time and circumstances however, I am glad that they have not effected it; yet, its progress in the march of human events, has not been. I am sorry to notice, what my ardent sentiments anticipated for it in that future which is now the present.

In the "Register" I recognize almost without exception the beginning of the Catholic press in America—the "Miscellany" in Charleston, the organ of the great Archbishop England; the "Truth-Teller" in New York; the "Pilot" in Boston, the "True Witness" in Montreal, the "Mirror" in Toronto, and the "Catholic" in Hamilton. The mention of these papers calls up many foreign and kind recollections. My friend, Patrick Ford of the "Irish World," received his newspaper tutelage on the "Miscellany." Maurice Daley, who was a relative of the Hayes family of Toronto and who held that city office, was editor of the "Truth-Teller." Thomas D'Arcy McGee was editor of the "Pilot" when I first knew it; Geo. E. Clerk, a convert, was the first editor of the "True Witness," and with whom I had business relations; for the "Mirror," I labor in my old newspaper connection; and the "Catholic" in Hamilton, I learned the initiatory rudiments of the "art preservative." With these passports of memory in my favor, I feel warranted in a way to pass in review the fortunes of the Catholic Press in the Dominion, since the dream of half a century ago, because it is still an inefficient press, though the field for enterprise has so vastly expanded.

Apart from that, we have now no "Townsend Review," no "Metropolitan Magazine," no "Dublin Review," from which to draw our higher aspirations. Where are our publications for Catholic children—our juvenile press and juvenile literature? It seems to me that the religious order that has grown in Catholicism, and book literature, is yet to be evolved, and that we need the Paulists of the Press to be brought forth and intensified. If "Truth is Catholic" why do we not "proclaim it ever," as it should be proclaimed by the mouth of the press in our hands, and which is so marked a moral agent for good in our day and generation? So much by way of generalization.

How many of the readers of the Register, if I may, have now any recollection of the editor of the "Catholic Register" of the present, edited and published by that venerable pioneer of the Church in Canada West, William Peter McDowell, first vicar-general of the diocese of Toronto? He is dead many a year, and as he died, many a burning tear was shed. His death, which occurred nearly at the same time in 1847, was a Highland Scot and an old army chaplain. He was possessed of the literary instinct, was a great conversationalist, and a possible poet. Well, I remember the "Catholic" which contained at first work on the front page of the paper by his ambitious epic on "The Power of Money." The Catholic was published in the early forties, and was discontinued in 1844, when it was changed into "The Liberal" by John Robertson, its printer.

Those were the dear old days of small beginnings, when hearts were fresh and hopes were high, and feelings fervent. The Vicar's church, was a very small rough-cut edifice that contained the first rough-cut edifice of the great St. Mary's Cathedral. I remember well when his choir was organized under the leadership of Thos. Cleohy, and what a grand choir it was! How many are left of it now? Perhaps not one. I only held a candle to it.

How all do I remember grand and beloved Bishop Power, when he made his first visitation to his Hamilton vicar and church, accompanied by his Archdeacon, Rev. Father Hay! It has been humorously told of the great Bishop O'Rourke that he rode in a hired carriage, which was being driven by a fourth class, but on the occasion to which I refer, Bishop Power walked from the steamboat landing at the foot of James street to the Church, with mitre on head and crozier in hand, to the wonderment of the surprised Protestants.

I remember the rebuke I once received from some Protestant companions, when I dared to claim that the Catholic Church had as many adherents as any of the great Protestant denominations. We had then a membership of about 700,000, now we have over 10,000,000, while the various Protestant sects have not half that number. The Catholic Church is now by far the richest in property. But there is the matter of bequests to charitable and religious, as well as educational institutions, in which the Catholics do not at all approach the

Protestant rank; of liberality. American superstitious wealth went to bequests last year as it never went before, and reached the astonishing figure of \$200,000,000, while Catholic benefactors could be counted by the dozens on your fingers and toes. One University in California received from its benefactress, Mrs. Stanford, the unparalleled donation of \$17,000,000! The age of large Catholic benefactors, has not yet begun.

But there are signs of Catholic wealth and liberality showing up, notwithstanding. The generosity with which Catholics are making bequests for educational and religious, as well as benevolent purposes, even in this state, is attracting serious attention. For instance, in Chicago last week, a bill given for a minor charity by an Association of Catholic women, realized the magnificent sum of \$16,000,000. Illinois is one of the States and Chicago is one of the cities in which Catholics contribute the largest proportion of Catholic bequests and always Catholic accelerators. I have visited a good many localities in this state, and there are numerous towns that have not less than two Catholic Churches. The Catholic population of Chicago is running rapidly up the milling race. Socially, they are not only holding their own, but gaining.

## The Political Outlook in the United States.

On the 12th, of the present month, we Americans keep a holiday—the anniversary of St. Lincoln. This anniversary is now the greatest in our national calendar, and St. Washington's nose is put almost out of joint. It is singular that while wealth accumulates, and imperialism and plutocracy are potent, the reverence for Lincoln among Catholics begins to wane. Socially, they are not only holding their own, but gaining.

The generation of Lincoln is the rebuke of privilege. Lincoln was a true American. He was a man of the broadest views and the largest sympathies. When know-nothingism was a political infection in this country, it was he who with it. He once wrote in answer to a correspondent at before he became famous: "You inquire where I now stand. This is a disputed point. I think I am a Whig, but others say I am not so. When I was in Washington I voted for the Whig not as good as forty times, and I never heard of any attempt to un-Wilg me for that. I know do not think that oppose the notion of slavery. I do not know anything; that is certain. How could it? How can anyone who abhors the oppression of the negro be in favor of degrading classes of white people? Our progress in degeneracy appears to me to be pretty rapid. As I grow older I am beginning to declare that all men are created equal! We now practically read it 'all men are created equal except negroes, and foreigners, and Catholics!' When it comes to that, I should prefer omitting the clause that mentions the negro, and make no pretense of loving liberty—to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy." What could be more explicit? Lincoln always was explicit.

Politicians are already actively preparing for the elections of 1900. The leaders are not concerning themselves about candidates for the Presidency. They are already chosen, and it is only about the vice-presidency there is any real contest. The nomination is already nominated by the common consent of the Republicans for president, and Bryan, by the common consent of Democrats and Populists. The Republican platform will be made to suit the temper of the country, where they make no pretense of loving liberty—to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy." What could be more explicit? Lincoln always was explicit.

A Perosi stock company, with a capital of \$50,000, has been formed in Milan for the performance of church music. The company has bought the rights of the Perosi opera "The Slaughter of the Innocents" and "The Entry of Christ into Jerusalem" will be performed.

In an illustrated article on Alfonso XIII. in the Young Woman for February we are told that the King of Spain has been trained as a King from his cradle. Almost before he could walk, he was in the arms of the Queen. In the councils of her Ministers and the story is told that at a high Church function, at which the Court and Government were present, King who sat on his nurse's knee in pure white, pulled off his cap and threw it on the ground as the money which had been proffered for more than an hour. The King is spoken of as a lively and talkative boy with the merry temper of his father. It is to be hoped this is true for his childhood was perhaps the happiest of his life. He is associated only with his equals and his expression as a

child was always sad and lonely. He dined two at a separate table. None but his nurse and governess dared touch his sacred person so that Alfonso grew up and with a companion of his own age, his life was a severe Court oligo in Europe.

Hardly had the conquest of the Sudan been effected before the Roman Catholic missions which suspended during the period of Mahdi's insurrection hastened to return. They were prompt to display the utmost activity in the prosecution of the Roman Catholic propaganda in the Sudan. Catholic schools for children of both sexes will be opened as soon as possible.

## A United Irish Party.

The Dublin Freeman's Journal says: Yesterday Unity was accomplished. The Irish Nationalist representatives of Catholicism in the North and the basis suggested in the Unity Conference of April last, and after a brief discussion became a re-united Irish Parliamentary Party. The news will be received with profound satisfaction in the country, and will tend to complete the elimination of all forms of sectarianism which had already progressed so far and so favorably. We have special reason to view with satisfaction the triumph of the principle that has been consistently and consistently advocated in these columns. Through good report and evil report we have stood firm for unity, even when its advocacy was met with taunts and revilings. We believed it essential; we believed it easy of accomplishment not by clique or caucus, but by an open meeting of all the National representatives. We believed that the resolution of the Unity Conference of April last afforded a simple and admirable basis of reunion. The most satisfactory result of yesterday's proceedings has abundantly justified our belief. Through good report and evil report we have stood firm for unity, even when its advocacy was met with taunts and revilings. We believed it essential; we believed it easy of accomplishment not by clique or caucus, but by an open meeting of all the National representatives. We believed that the resolution of the Unity Conference of April last afforded a simple and admirable basis of reunion. The most satisfactory result of yesterday's proceedings has abundantly justified our belief.

## Ireland Rejoices.

The Dublin Universe says: "Evidence of the general joy in Ireland at the reunion of the political parties fills the columns of the Irish papers. The jubilation is universal with a few exceptions which are of little importance. From Ulster especially, priests and people give vent to their gratified feelings in letters and speeches brimming over with pride and patriotism. The news of the happy termination of a long and mean-spirited quarrel was not a day old when subscriptions began to pour in to the treasurers of the party. A hundred guineas from five gentlemen (names not enclosed) was the first practical expression of delight at the return of common sense to the representatives of the Irish people. After the receipt of the cheque for £25 from the proprietor of the Cork Examiner. Since then other contributions have been tumbling into the funds of the solidly united Irish phalanx. Great as is the pleasure in Ireland it must be still greater amongst the Irish in the United States, Canada, and the Australias. To our race abroad Irish disunion brought the blush of shame. We can understand how hard it was for them to bear the taunts of other nationalities and the sneers of the people who have never wished any harm to our country. They may now hold up their heads and look the enemy straight in the face."

## Mr. Raskin's Estimate of Sir William Butler.

To Catholics it is interesting at the present hour to recall the esteem in which the great Raskin held the valiant soldier and writer—Sir William Butler. After reading Butler's Far Out, over twenty years since, Raskin wrote as follows: "A book has just been published by a British officer who, if he had not been otherwise and more actively employed, could not only have written all my books about India, but also my country is very singularly also of one mind with me (God knows how few Englishmen I can now say so) on matters regarding the Queen's safety and the nation's honor."

It is a singular coincidence that several chapters in Far Out are devoted to the Transvaal, with the circumstances of which Sir William Butler is probably more conversant than any other living officer.

## HIGHER EDUCATION OF WOMAN.

Very Rev. Dr. P. J. Garrigan, vicar-general of the Catholic University, in a lecture on the above subject, said: "It will not do to discuss the relative ability of men and women for higher studies, or their relative claims to higher education. This is at present rather a speculative than a practical matter, and it will be answered with more accuracy from the development which future results may furnish. I may say, however, with Bishop Spalding, not a mean authority on this subject, that there is not a religion, a philosophy, a science, an art, or a trade which is not, in its essential elements at least, an education for men and another for women. In music, in souls, in conclusions there is no sex. What is not a man's work is not a woman's. All that which will best help her to become a perfect human being, wise, loving and strong. What is forbidden her? Nothing but what degrades, unsexes, narrows or warps. She exists for the good of the world, and her duty is to bring her in contact with the whole of our body—domestic, religious and civil."

## Cardinal Gibbons and the Sabbath.

Blue laws will not be enforced so rigidly in Baltimore for a Sunday or two, for the reason that the grand jury has about 600 witnesses of violations of the law already on its hand, and it is not anxious to have that number doubled by the police. At a conference of the police authorities it was decided to make arrests in the case of newsmen, bootblacks, baggage wagon drivers, elevator boys and cabmen.

The bill for modification of the laws now in the legislature will probably be passed, and permit those members of the grand jury who insisted upon a rigid enforcement of the old laws to get out of an embarrassing position.

Cardinal Gibbons gave his opinion on the controversy. He said: "Our Christian Sunday should not be confounded with the Sabbath or the Puritan Sabbath. It prescribes the golden mean between rigid Sabbatarianism on the one hand and lax indulgence on the other. My impression is that if the present law is enforced as it is rigorously all of the details there will be a revulsion of public feeling, and the pendulum will oscillate from excessive rigor to excessive laxity. I should like to see such law enforced as will contribute to public order and tranquility and prevent all unnecessary work or manual labor—law that will throw its protecting shield around the people in worshipping God in their respective consecrated temples.

"The modern Christian Sabbath differs from that of the Puritan in that it is 'starting in brass,' either to gain the suffrage or any other concession. It won't pay; it never was a wise offensive policy, and modern conditions of living have taken all the snap out of it."

Sombody wrote to the editor of the Montreal Star as follows: "Sir, will you kindly tell me how a well dressed lady can walk along our streets and keep her skirts from being ruined by the fish and dirt one meets every turn?" The editor of the Star did not tell her; possibly he hadn't time to tell her; neither have I. But the mistake fashionable women make is in imagining that the streets of a flourishing busy city like Montreal, Toronto, or any other city, are so filthy that they will adapt themselves to the requirements of their skirts. Fashion, if it is practical, common-sense, considerate of cleanliness, that paragon of the virtues, and of a possible daintiness which always makes womanhood look angelic, should adapt itself to the requirements of the streets just as specifically as it does for the reception room or ball-room.

Girls, leave you a grandmother or two? If so, make an onslaught on her jewel-case. The very prettiest of girdles can be made up with a stock of old style jewelry. Perhaps, the old lady wears ear-rings; perhaps, they were made by her great-grandmother and have been treasured for years, but that doesn't matter. They will look, you don't know how 'fashioning,' dangling from your belt. Dear, old Grannie—that is the way you must approach her—like a beam of light, and come through with a look of broad, sane, common sense at the back—never mind that—I will make the dearest, quietest clasp for your girdle. Take brooch and ear-rings and trinkets to your flinty-hearted jeweler, with a strip of your favorite ribbon, and you will have a belt worth Grannie knows how much.

## Fact or Fanciful.

The wisdom of the axiom, "feed the brute," has long been recognized by women who aim at securing a peaceful life at a moderate expense; but some of the more advanced women, bent upon obtaining the suffrage, threaten to inaugurate from opposite policy, "starve the brute," in the hope of compelling him to assist them in their aims. These heartless creatures are of opinion that, left unimpeded, "the brute" would capitulate in less than a week. Would he? Let them justify it and see how it will work. There are an enormous amount already for the hun-poked ones, without adding compulsion to leave the horse to their number. City life, for instance, is not what it used to be, and men are altogether less dependent upon home influence for their happiness and comfort than they were, say, fifty years ago. Clubs—social and others—hotels, restaurants and feeding places of every description have made the "lords of creation" supremely indifferent to the pleasures of the family table, provided over by an unimpeded woman and meagrely supplied with badly cooked victuals. No, no, my married sisters, it won't do. Get the outrage by all means if you covet it; but don't be foolish enough to try such a worn-out ploy as "starving the brute," either to gain the suffrage or any other concession. It won't pay; it never was a wise offensive policy, and modern conditions of living have taken all the snap out of it.

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"Love, soliloquizes a woman of the world, 'in such a delicate plant, finding a mistral or a breeze in almost every air that blows. Poverty sends it flying out of the window. Riches rob the wedded pair of the home-quiet interests that do so much to draw ordinary husband and wife together. Children often divert the affection of husband and wife into another channel, and the lack of children just as often brings estrangement. Idleness separates, and so does hard work. One knows not how to take that capricious thing that is called Love. It is very obstinate, differing with the nature of each human creature that feels it, and talking its lute from his individuality. It is sometimes more than half vanity, for instance. But what boots it to analyze a sentiment that is never twice alike, any more than the human countenance?"

So that is love, is it? To a woman of the world. Shakespeare was only a young man when he wrote, "Love comforteth like sunshine after rain; But Lust's effect is tempest after sun; Love's gentle spring doth always fresh remain; Lust's winter comes, e'er summer half be done. Love surreals not; Lust like a gliston dies; Love is all truth; Lust full of forged lies."

I am glad I read Shakespeare and not glad to be a scholar. The "woman of the world" and Shakespeare are at one on the subject of matrimony, which seems to be what the "woman of the world" means by love; for Shakespeare hath said: "Marriage is such a rattle drum, that those who are out would fain get in, and those that are in would fain get out."

This may be true also; but the argument seems to be all on the side of the "woman of the world."

ALWAYS ON HAND.—Mr. Thomas H. Porter, Lower Ireland, P. O., writes: "My son, 18 months old, had a cough so bad that nothing gave him relief until a neighbour brought me some of Dr. Thomas' Oil, which I gave him, and in six hours he was cured. It is the best medicine I ever used, and I would not be without a bottle of it in my house."