

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 two most important bills before the Local Legislature this last week were Mr. Gibson's Bill for the prevention of cruelty to children, and Mr. Marter's for restricting the sale of liquor to the wholesale trade. The report of the prison commission suggested the establishment of industrial schools in all the counties of the Province, which was not acted upon by the Government. Another bill was introduced instead; the first eight sections, relating entirely to prevention of cruelty to children, are based upon an English Act of a similar kind. These have for a basis the theory that the father is not the owner of his child, and therefore cannot treat it as any other portion of his property. The Children's Aid Society in Great Britain had accomplished a good deal in taking children from brutal parents and educating them; and although the same conditions do not exist in this country as in the crowded cities of the old world, much can be done. A number of sections follow, dealing with the care of children, in which a new departure is taken. The institution plan, which Mr. Gibson did not regard very favorably, is to make way for the placing out of children. The former system is more expensive, and is a barrack life. The child loses the benefit of a home and parental training, which it is hoped will be somewhat supplied by placing children with families. This method will also have the advantage, that the child, living in a neighborhood will be known, and will at the proper age be better able to obtain employment. The difficulty in the bill was the provision for payment. If the children's parents can pay for the maintenance of the child, they shall by the bill be made to do so. The concluding section makes provision for the ringing of a curfew bell at nine o'clock when children must be off the streets.

This Bill is treading upon very dangerous and slippery ground—the ground between parents and children. If those who are to execute the law are well and prudently chosen, good results will surely follow, but otherwise, instead of a benefit the Act will prove an injury. The second reading was unopposed, several changes being left for the Committee stage.

On Monday, May 1st, Mr. Marter's bill to prohibit the retail of liquors was again brought before the House. Mr. Marter himself first spoke in favor of the bill. He sketched the Prohibition movement, which led up to the bill, and quoted the resolutions of meetings and conferences in its favor. He had hoped Sir Oliver would be willing to take the measure in hand. He concluded by quoting legal author-

ities to prove that the passing of such a bill was in the power of the legislators.

Mr. Balfour expressed himself as being personally in favor of Prohibition, but there were many difficulties in the way of this bill. It left the wholesale trade as it is, and opened the way for a great deal of illicit trade in liquors, which would deprive the country of revenue without remedying the evil. He thought the Attorney-General was right in refusing to enact a law until he felt certain that it would be constitutional. The real responsibility in this matter rested with the Dominion Government, and this responsibility they had always shirked. His opinion was that the constitutional side of the question should be carried before the courts, and in the meantime a plebiscite should be taken to know the will of the people on the question. He concluded by proposing an amendment to give the bill a three months' hoist.

Hon. Mr. Ross began his speech by defending the course of the present Government in temperance legislation during the past fifteen years. Since the Provincial authorities took charge of the issue of licenses, their number decreased from 7,000 to 3,000, and they are now limited according to population. Speaking of the legality of the Act in question, he reminded temperance supporters of the confusion and harm produced by the Mc Carthy Act, when there were two licensing authorities. Some such confusion must arise from an attempt to enforce an Act of doubtful legality. All would be chaos. And even if the legality were established, it would require a strong temperance feeling in every place to ensure the enforcement of the Act under changing administrations. He was in favor of Mr. Harcourt's plan of testing the will of the people by a plebiscite, but not on the question as it was before the House. If Prohibition were passed, it should be full and entire; it should prohibit the manufacture and importation of liquors. He moved as an amendment that, on account of the doubtful legality of the measure, steps should be taken to test it, and in the meantime the people should be allowed to express their opinion by ballot, and to accomplish this, the second reading should be postponed for six months.

Mr. Wood (Hastings) characterized the last amendment as an evasion. There was no need of a plebiscite. The bill should be voted on at once, and the legality tested afterwards, like the Crooks Act.

Mr. Davis thought it in the best interests of the temperance people that there should be certainty of the bill's being legal before any attempt to pass it. He cited the Manitoba plebiscite as an example of the benefits of such

a plan. Dr. McMahon spoke in favor of immediate reading. Mr. Guthrie quoted extensively from legal works to prove that such a mission should come from the Dominion Government. Mr. Whitney moved the adjournment of the debate.

The most pleasing, as also the most surprising mark of the Papal Jubilee is the number of audiences given by the Holy Father, which continue even now to engross his precious time and try his feeble strength. Prelates and princes; priests, monks and sisters; pilgrims of every rank and age have crowded for several months into the Vatican to catch a glimpse of the venerable Head of the Church, and hear a word from him whose natural talent, whose vast experience and whose grace of life, character and office combine in giving a more than earthly wisdom to his every thought. We see from our European exchanges that his Holiness astonishes and rejoices all by his vigor and good health. Three days during Easter week five hundred assembled each morning to assist at the Pope's Mass, and receive his benediction. Then he received a pilgrimage consisting of the students of a French Dominican school with their parents. In his discourse the Supreme Pontiff spoke of his love for youth and his pleasure at seeing so many young French people, and added: "Have a religion, my dear children, fight and struggle for it with open visage. Be learned, for knowledge is strength in the combat of life. Love your country, for the first duty of a Christian and citizen is to love his country. France is a great and generous nation. It has need to be stimulated and raised up. It is surely harassed by the Radicals and Free-Masons, the enemies of religion. But to the effort of the enemy we must oppose the union of good people. I love France particularly, and I wish to work for its union and exaltation. Who will better raise it up than you, the youth, the strength, the future?"

The British Budget introduced into the House of Commons last week by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir William Harcourt, showed a deficit of £1,574,000. This is due partially to a decrease in revenue, but chiefly to the vast growth of expenditures arising from the demands of the country upon Parliament. In order to meet this the Government resorts to the income tax, which it proposes to increase by a penny on the pound. The comments passed by the members who spoke were favorable to the Budget.

Excitement was caused the other day (April 27th) by the rumor that Mr. Gladstone had been fired at by some man whose name was given as William Townsend. The *Pall Mall*

Gazette stated that the attempt was made on the Premier's life while walking through St. James' Park to his house on Downing street the evening previous. Later it was learned that Mr. Gladstone was walking home about the time that the man was arrested, who, according to the policeman's statement, had discharged his revolver in the Horse Guards' parade near Downing street. An examination of a note book in the man's possession revealed the fact that it contained a mass of ravings against Home Rule, and the suggestion that the murder of Gladstone would be justifiable.

The *Daily Chronicle* says that the attempt to shoot Mr. Gladstone suggests the murder of President Garfield, and warns the Unionist statesmen who indulge in abuse of Mr. Gladstone that "there are people in Ireland and England ready to translate such abuse into actions."

The *Daily News* says:—"The incident has embarrassed Unionist circles, and has encouraged many Unionists to protest openly against the incendiary speeches of their leaders."

In the English House of Commons, Mr. Sexton, on April 25th, asked Mr. Asquith, Home Secretary, in the absence of Mr. Morley, Irish Secretary, whether the attention of the Government had been directed to the Belfast riots; if so, what measures had been taken to preserve peace, and whether the speeches of the eminent politicians who had instigated the riots would be considered by the law officers of the Crown. Similar conduct of the Orangemen on a previous occasion, Mr. Sexton added, had resulted in the killing of twenty people. The Belfast police apparently had made no effort to prevent the looting on Saturday night of the tavern kept by the Catholic Connolly. Would such negligence be tolerated by the Government? In reply, Mr. Asquith read the official report of the rioting in Belfast yesterday and Saturday. The facts related corresponded with those cited by Mr. Sexton, and already published. As regards the speeches of the eminent politicians, as Mr. Sexton had designated Mr. Balfour and Lord Randolph Churchill, Mr. Asquith expressed the opinion that they had incurred a very heavy responsibility by using intemperate language directly calculated to incite the bitterest party strife. The Government had taken every possible step, he said, to prevent a recurrence of the deplorable demonstrations in Belfast, and believed that further trouble would be averted.

The Archduchess Margaret of Austria, the niece of the Emperor, will this year receive the honor of the Golden Rose from the Pope. The jewel is valued at \$50,000.